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A JOURNEY

ACROSS

THE DESERT.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
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A JOURNEY,

ACROSS

THE DESERT,

FROM

CEYLON TO MARSEILLES:

COMPRISING SKETCHES OF

ADEN, THE RED SEA, LOWER EGYPT,

MALTA, SICILY, AND ITALY.

BY

MAJOR AND MRS. GEORGE DARBY GRIFFITH.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

HENRY COLBURN, PUBLISHER,

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PREFACE.

In making the Overland Passage from India, I repeatedly and inconveniently felt the want of some work that might serve at once as a guide and companion in pointing out and examining the many features of novelty and attraction connected with that highly interesting route. This feeling has been my chief inducement for venturing on the publication of a journal made under circumstances which were not in themselves favourable to such an intention. Nor do I for a moment suppose that so desultory and unpremeditated a record of the scenes and incidents in question will answer all the purposes which should be aimed at in a work of the nature to which I have alluded. Still, in the absence of any such

work, it may be not without utility, and will, I trust, be received with reasonable indulgence by the reader.

On the other hand, I venture to hope that these volumes will be found to contain many details which the circumstances of an ordinary overland passage would not have called forth. The account of our recently acquired military Colony of Aden, for instance, could scarcely have been given in the absence of those facilities afforded to us by our kind hosts, Dr. and Mrs. Malcolmson. In like manner, the unusual stay that we made in Egypt, and also in Malta, and our letters of introduction to influential persons in both those countries, enabled us to visit scenes not usually open to the mere passing traveller, the descriptions of which I have not hitherto seen in print: while the outline I have given of the coasts of Sicily and Italy, described at a time of year when they are inexpressibly lovely, and when, owing to the great heat of summer, comparatively few English visit them, will, I trust, prove interesting to the reader.

With regard to the orthography of those Arabic

words it has been necessary to employ, I have adopted that pursued by Mr. Lane in his work upon "Modern Egypt."

I may further observe that the whole of the illustrations to these volumes are taken from drawings made by my husband at the actual moment, and on the spot to which they relate. Among them will be found representations of some objects which form new features in the Desert route.

I cannot conclude these prefatory remarks without offering our best thanks to our sincere friend the Rev. I. Wenham, the highly esteemed Government chaplain of Pointe de Galle, and to his most amiable family, for those acts of kindness so much in accordance with the Christian charity they habitually exercised, and which smoothed the otherwise almost insurmountable difficulties of our sudden departure from Ceylon.

LUCINDA DARBY GRIFFITH.

London, October 1844.

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—	8,	—	6, *for* leaves, *read* houses.
—	16,	—	2, *for* exquisite sentimental, *read* exceedingly effective.
—	23,	—	7, *for* laborious, *read* labourers.
—	56,	—	19, *for* furious, *read* ferocious.
—	58,	—	15, *for* brooks, *read* banks.
—	58,	—	16, *for* any, *read* every.
—	63,	—	12, *for* or, *read* and.
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CHAPTER I.

Pointe de Galle—Arrival of India Steamer—Leave-taking — Sorrowful Thoughts — Landing again — View from Harbour—Dirty Ship—At Sea—Cock-roaches—Rats—Captain's Table—Maldive Islands — Stormy Weather — Dinner Scenes — Bulkhead — Porpoises, Dolphins — Storm — Coast of Africa — Cape Guardafui—Curious Appearance of the Sea—At Anchor—Back Bay of Aden—The Point—The opposite Coast of Arabia—Arabia Felix—Isthmus—Fort — Evening Row — The Charger — Zanzibar Coolies—Oyster Island—Species of Caper—Hotel —Singular Stone—Arabs—Dyeing Hair red—Row in Gig — Numbers of Fish — Landing — Scene of Desolation — Turkish Wall — Stroll — Plants — Insects—Butterflies—Bouquet—Beautiful Flowers—Scramble up the Rocks—Curious Bees—Rencontre of Arabs—Fright—Sailor Friend—Camels—Water Donkeys—French Friends—Benighted—Evening Scene — Escape — Tonjon — Invitation — Moonlight Row—Horrors of Coaling.

JOURNEY,

&c.

CHAPTER I.

May 20th.—This morning the India steamer, on her way from Calcutta to Suez, came in sight of Galle. She had been some time expected, and the idea of my return to Europe by her had been often canvassed between my husband and myself; but we had always decided that I could not undertake so long a journey without his protection, and I could not bear the idea of his making such a sacrifice as leaving Ceylon so soon. However, the last week my health had declined so much, that he sent up an express

to Colombo to ask for leave to return home by the India. This was yesterday refused him; and this morning, as soon as the India sighted Galle, he despatched another to send in his papers for half-pay. Immediately we were all hurry and bustle; our quiet, peaceful home was transformed into a labyrinth of confusion.

We were told the India was to sail either to-night or to-morrow morning. My kind friends the Miss Wenhams, daughters of the chaplain of Galle, came over to help me to pack up. The few things that were necessary for our overland journey were heaped together, and every thing else was left either to be sent after us, or to fall a prey to the auctioneer's hammer. How sad it is to have to abandon all one's own familiar things, which happy or afflicting circumstances have rendered so many dearest friends! I wished in my heart that the leave might arrive too late.

April 21st.—The permission to quit the island arrived; the cabin was taken, the passage-money paid, all our things were sent

pell-mell to Mr. Wenham's, his daughters having kindly offered to pack them and send them afterwards. It was Sunday, and what a Sunday! How inappropriately spent! Little did I think this day week, when I went to the quiet church, from which illness had absented me a long time, and took the sacrament there—little did I think it was for the last time, and that in so short a space of time I should be bidding adieu to this fair land, which, although it has been the cradle of so much suffering and affliction to me, has yet been the scene of much of our domestic happiness and many innocent joys. Here we had only to live for each other, and could bid defiance to the world and all its annoyances.

In the morning many of our acquaintances came to say farewell. It is a painful effort to exchange the conventional phrases of society, when one's heart and mind are pre-occupied with sorrowful and all-important reflections! We dined with our friends the Wenhams, and I cannot describe the lingering regret I felt at leaving our own short,

happy home, every plant and flower of which appeared as so many friends. We had scarcely finished dinner when we were told the signal of departure was given: we hurried into the carriage, and once more stopped before the dear old house, to wish Mrs. Cripps good bye, who was standing in the verandah. At length we reached the little pier. O how I regretted the dear quiet fort! The very sentry at the old gateway, and the guard who turned out and presented arms to my husband for the last time, acquired an interest in my mind.

At length, we reached the ugly black steamer, smoking at anchor in the harbour. Every thing was in the greatest confusion, and covered with coal-dust; I went down into the saloon, and viewed my cabin, which, although fitted up in the most costly manner, and one of the best of the ship, appeared like a large box. After being on board about an hour, we heard she was not to sail till the next morning. I could not resist the desire of spending another night on shore; we therefore sent to ask Mr. Wen-

ham to send his carriage to the pier, and receive us for the night. It was a dark, wet evening, but just as we entered the town it cleared up, and as we went up the commandant's hill I saw our house at the top, with all our servants on the steps, as they used to await my return from my evening drive.

We spent a sleepless night, and at four o'clock in the morning we took an affectionate leave of our friends, who so much smoothed the difficulties of our departure, and re-embarked. I sat on the deck above an hour before we weighed anchor, and took a lingering look at the beautiful though familiar scene. The view from the harbour at Galle is certainly lovely: the entrance being narrow, the panorama is uninterrupted. To the right is the picturesque fort, with its old walls and fortifications jutting far into the sea; at the extreme point is the flagstaff, and beyond it are several rocky islands, upon one of which is a single cocoa-nut tree, which adds much to the effect. In the centre of the town, and rising above every

surrounding object, are the two gable-ends of the old church, built by the Dutch, and from the harbour it appears shaded by a large tulip-tree which grows in our garden. The whole place is shaded by trees, which appear as numerous as the leaves, and make it look from sea like fairy-land. Farther on is the quay, where multitudes of canoes are moored, which have an exceedingly picturesque appearance.

On the left of the bay is a lofty headland, clothed to the summit with trees and the most luxuriant vegetation, of the richest and most varied colours. Two lovely islands are in the same direction, partaking of the features of the main land; but the prettiest part of the whole is the back of the harbour: here is the Galle Face or esplanade, and at the back three verdant hills, clothed to the summit with cocoa-nut trees; at the top of one is the pretty little Catholic chapel, peeping its white face through the trees. At the foot of these, and close to the harbour, is the native town and bridge, all of white, and shaded by numerous trees.

At six o'clock, we weighed anchor, but it was many hours before we lost sight of the shores of Ceylon. I remained on a couch all day on deck.

For the first few days I was very sea-sick, and spent the whole day on deck. I never saw any thing like the dirt of the ship; the coal-dust penetrates into every thing; it is in vain to sigh for even a clean face and hands, for they are unattainable. This is owing, in a great measure, to mismanagement. The India, although built in the most costly way, is very ill-adapted for the service upon which she is engaged: her upper deck is far too large for her size and power; the consequence is she is extremely unwieldy, and inadequate to face the south-west monsoon, which is at present prevalent and right in her teeth. She has no poop; therefore the walk on the deck is delightfully long and uninterrupted. The saloon, which is down-stairs, is profusely ornamented with gilding, cornices, and mirrors; the couches and tables are richly veneered, and the furniture is of morocco leather. But all these

heavy ornaments entirely exclude the air, both from the saloon itself and the cabins ranged on each side of it. Had they been all venetians, the ventilation would have been perfect; whereas now, although punkas are constantly going, we can scarcely breathe. And the heat of the cabins is not to be described; ours is suffocating: we have two stern windows, but they are of little use, as, the wind being constantly ahead of us, we can get none; and where there ought to be a side-port is a large looking-glass, which only reflects one's dirt and discomfort.

But I could endure all this, were it not for the swarms of cockroaches that infest us; they almost drive me out of my senses. The other day sixty were killed in our cabin, and we might have killed as many more; they are very large, about two inches and a half long, and run about my pillows and sheets in the most disgusting manner. In order to guard myself against them, I am obliged to sleep with a great muslin veil over my face, which adds not a little to the heat and suffocation. Rats are also very numerous. One

night Mr. Welby Jackson, one of the passengers, was asleep on the cuddy table, and was woke up by a huge monster running down one of the punka ropes into his shirt, and it was a long time before he could dispossess himself of his unwelcome visitor. The captain keeps a very good table, and has an excellent cook.

On the fourth day from Galle we came in sight of the most northerly group of the Maldive Islands. We were within two or three miles of many of them, and I suppose we sighted about twenty of them altogether. These islands are supposed to be entirely of coral formation, rising up straight from the bottom of the ocean; within two or three yards from the shore the sea is unfathomable. As far as we could see they appeared all flat land; one or two, however, had some trifling eminences. They were covered with cocoa-nut or some kind of palm trees, and gave the idea of so many forests growing out of the sea. We could perceive no traces of habitation; not a hut or even a boat was to be seen; but I believe they are all peopled, and the largest is said to contain 150 in-

habitants. I was particularly interested at the sight of these islands, as it brought to my mind the Maldivian ambassador that came to Galle when we were there. Several boobies hovered round the ship.

The next two or three days the wind blew so strong against us that great fears were entertained of our making the passage, as Captain Stavers wished to go in a direct line to Aden, which has always been impracticable during this monsoon. Every one prophesied that our coals would fail, and we should have to beat back to Bombay. At length the captain consented to follow the advice of Captain Ingledue, commander of the Great Liverpool, who is a passenger, and is returning after making a survey of the Indian Seas for the Oriental Steam Company's service. It was always his opinion that we ought first to go south, and that within two or three degrees from the line we should meet light and variable winds, which would blow us to the north-west. His opinion proved correct: we steamed till within two degrees of the line, and then met

with a south wind; the steam was stopped, the floats were taken off, and we sailed for three days. The weather was dreadfully rough and stormy, and the vessel was so crank she seemed as if she would tip over every moment.

The breakfast and dinner scenes at this time were most amusing; I saw them in perfection, as, being the only lady except one on board, who never left her cabin, I dined at a side-table by preference. The India was certainly not built for rough weather; there is not a swing-table in the ship: the consequence was that bottles of wine were flying in every direction; geese, turkeys, and curry, were precipitated into the laps of the unfortunate people on the lee side, while those on the weather side were thrown forward with their faces in their plates. There are four French passengers on board, and every bottle of wine they were inundated with they considered an insult from the opposite party, and many were the ludicrous and angry complaints they made to the captain after dinner.

But the captain himself was the best joke of all. He is an immensely fat, punchy man, resembling a huge ball, great fat red cheeks, which almost conceal his eyes, and a small turn-up nose. He, of course, is always seated at the head of the table, and I suppose considered it beneath his dignity to have his chair tied. Several times during dinner he made a terrible lurch on one side, and was only kept in his place by the exertions of his servant; at length, in an unwary moment, the vessel gave a tremendous roll, the chair turned round with its burden, and glided off to the bulkhead, where there was a tremendous concussion. Every body was in roars of laughter: it was the most ludicrous sight I ever saw.

During this rough weather numerous porpoises were always playing near the ship; several whales were also seen, and shoals of magnificent dolphins filled every wave; these fish are of the most splendid pea-green and azure colour; they are from three to four feet long.

On the third night of our sailing, the wind

became stronger, and the swell from the south greater than ever. We pitched about in the most dreadful way; and, during the night, two sails were carried away and the fore-topmast. This completely stopped us, until the next morning, when they got up the steam again; we steered north-west, and at length made our passage between the coasts of the island of Socotra and Africa; we were some time in sight of the latter, it is low near the sea, but high mountains are to be seen farther inland. In the morning of the 9th of June we doubled Cape Guardafui, and were immediately in smooth water, running up between the coasts of Arabia and Africa. Although we were forty miles from the nearest land, numerous butterflies, dragon-flies, and moths, were constantly alighting on the ship. The weather became intensely hot, the sun darting down its rays with a force I never felt in Ceylon. We are now sure of our passage to Aden, which had hitherto appeared doubtful. Mr. Welby Jackson (of the Bengal civil service) has a most delightful talent

for drawing, and has beguiled the tedium of the voyage by some exquisite sentimental sketches.

June 11*th.*—In the middle of the day the sea assumed a dirty orange colour, accompanied with a most disagreeable effluvium; buckets were lowered, and the water was found to be filled with minute animalculæ: through the microscope they appeared like white caterpillars with black spots, armed with minute pincers. We traversed this living sea for fifteen miles.

June 12*th.*—Before sunset last night we sighted land, and until daybreak we hove-to off the entrance of the harbour of Aden. As soon as it was light we passed the narrow mouth between the peninsula of Aden and the main land of Arabia, and anchored in the back harbour. I know not how to describe the scene that presented itself to our view. It is completely different from any thing I ever saw, or imagined—huge mountains and rocks rising in every direction, and of the most grotesque shapes; but the most striking thing of all is, that there

is not the smallest particle of vegetation to relieve the eye from these huge cinders, for they are literally nothing else, which reflect the sun threefold.

The whole place is supposed to be of volcanic formation, and it certainly gives the idea of the mouth of a crater. Notwithstanding the disadvantages of the glare and heat, it is remarkably picturesque, and affords a wide field for the pencil; the rocks are of the most varied colours, and of the most grotesque shapes.

From the spot where we are at anchor the view is splendid. Immediately in front are two magnificent cliffs, and a narrow valley between them affords a sight of the two highest mountains on the peninsula, which, in the early morning, are of a cobalt colour. On the top of one are two ruined towers, scarcely distinguishable from hence with the naked eye. In the foreground of one of the two cliffs is a rock, having the exact appearance of a gigantic coal; it seems, indeed, to form a part of the stacks of coal which are laid up in store at its base: in

front is a sandy beach, covered with loose pieces of rock.

To the right is a point of high land jutting out into the bay: upon it are numerous bungalows, belonging to the principal inhabitants of Aden, and are so many country seats; in fact, it is the sanatorium of the place. I have not been up there yet, but it is said that they enjoy a fine sea-breeze, although the houses look perched in the eye of the sun. The town of Aden is in a valley on the other side of the mountains we see from hence; the bay in front of it is too shallow to admit of the approach of any but the smallest craft. Opposite the point, and divided by the entrance to the harbour, is a lofty range of pointed mountains, very picturesque in their appearance. They belong to the main land, which runs away from them in a low sandy plain, forming the opposite boundary to the bay. In a clear day, lofty ranges of mountains are visible: they are about two hundred miles in the interior, and in one of the most temperate and luxuriant climates in the world, the soil abun-

dantly fertile, and the scenery equal to that of Switzerland. The thermometer there is seldom above 72°, while in the sandy plains, immediately adjoining, it is sometimes 140°. I received this account from Mr. Crattendon, the assistant political agent here, who has travelled much in the country.

To look at the coast from this spot, nothing but a sandy desert presents itself. The peninsula is joined to the main land (which is Arabia Felix) by a narrow sandy isthmus, nearly level with the ocean; it is only 14,000 feet wide. There are three rocky islands in the bay, one of which, commanding the isthmus, is fortified; last year it was taken by the Arabs for two or three hours: they are constantly making attacks upon the English, to whom they are very inimical.

We were disturbed during the whole day by the yells of the Arabs who were bringing the coal on board. They look like demons more than human beings, and will never work without making these terrible vociferations; of course, we were in a cloud of coal-dust, and it was impossible to keep either one's self or

any thing else clean for a moment. We had brought a letter to Mr. Crettendon, from Mr. Wenham, at Galle. He came to us immediately, and promised to endeavour to procure a bungalow for me on the point. However, he failed in his endeavours, and I was obliged to content myself with the ship. In the evening, he came to take us for a row in his boat.

I was anxious to taste the oysters, which they say are very fine; so it was agreed we should go to the rock where they are found, and taste them there. Accordingly, we first called at the ship charger for hammers to break the shells off, and pepper and vinegar, &c. The charger is the hull of the steamer Semiramis, formerly "the City of Waterford." She ran aground some time ago, and was so much injured that they took her engines out, and the Bombay Government established her here as a dépôt of coals for their steamers, which run monthly with the mail between Bombay and Suëz. They are placed alongside of her, and the coals are transhipped in a very short time.

The coolies employed on this service come from the coast of Zanzibar, and, in addition to their yells, perform a kind of dance all the time they are at work. They never cease, night or day, until they have finished their task, and the fatigue is so great, that it was calculated that one man died for every 100 ton of coals; but this has not been the case the last six months, as they have been made to drink grog. The charger is manned and officered complete by the Bombay navy. Near her we passed two gun-boats, which are kept in constant employment scouring the bay, as none of the Arabs are allowed boats, and if any thing like one is found in the bay it is destroyed immediately.

The island where we found the oysters is nothing more than a block of lava. The shells were sticking all over the low rocks in masses: they are small and delicate. The boatmen jumped out into the water and knocked them off, opened them, and we ate them in the boat. We found several shells, which I brought away; also a large kind of weed, a species of caper, which grows in

patches on all the Aden rocks; it has a large woody stem and thick leaves, and its seed-pod is shaped like the fig. They tell me it is so acrid that no animal will eat it, not even the camel. As we turned a point of rock we came in sight of a building which is erecting for an hotel, to accommodate the passengers by the steamers, which will be a great convenience, as it is so dreadful to remain on board while they are loading with coal. A road from the point follows the winding of the beach for nearly five miles, when it strikes across a pass in the mountains to Aden. Camels and donkeys are constantly passing to and fro; the latter are excellent, and trot and gallop along at a great pace. Many of the inhabitants also have very good Arab horses.

Near one of the distant points of rock we visited a very singular stone: it is a conical lump, of about a dozen yards in circumference, mounted upon a stalk of two feet high and about six inches round. Mr. Crettendon says he remembers it seven years ago —it looks like a great cabbage. We saw

the isthmus very plain, and the sea beyond it; the water is so very shallow from thence to the town, that the enemy, under the cover of darkness, have often waded round and attacked it.

The Arabs on the coast are divided into two classes: the laborious, or cultivators of the soil, and the warriors. It is the latter who are so jealous of our possessions; the former, on the contrary, are very friendly, and are the servants of the place. They have a curious custom of dyeing their hair red, with lime, which they consider a great beauty. But I must say, that a creature as black as a coal, surmounted by a mop of red wool, has any thing but a captivating appearance.

We had a delightful row back to the ship: the sea was as smooth as glass, and reflected on its surface the graceful form of a Bombay man-of-war frigate, now at anchor in the bay; also the Berenice steamer, belonging to the same company.

June 13th.—Immediately after dinner, we accompanied the captain in his gig, which

was to take us to the mountain pass, from whence the gentlemen had settled to start for Aden. The whole bay seemed alive with fish, although this is not the time of the year when they are most abundant. Many of them jump twelve feet out of the water; the colours of some of them are magnificent, and they are most of them excellent for the table. I believe a great many sword-fish and guard-fish are found here.

We landed directly opposite the pass; and it was the most ludicrous sight imaginable to see two riders on one camel, the captain in front and my husband behind. Neither of them had been on a camel before, and they were, therefore, quite unprepared when the creature, after having lain down for them to mount, began gradually to rise; first, erecting his front legs, which nearly flung them backwards, and then, while they were clinging on with all their might by his neck, as suddenly raising his hind legs, and precipitating them forcibly forward in the other direction, nearly over his head. I believe nothing could have saved them from at least two

severe somersets, had not Lieut. Crettendon and a party of gentlemen, who were taking their morning ride, arrived on the scene of action at the moment they were preparing to mount, and gave them a timely warning to sit firm.

Once safely mounted, they set forward at a brisk trot, leaving their companions, who were more humbly equipped on a couple of stout donkeys, far in the rear. The jolting they experienced must have been of service after the sea voyage, for it was of no trifling description, as every one well knows who has seen a camel trot. G—— being behind acted as steersman over the head of his companion; altogether, it was a most ridiculous turn-out.

I watched them winding up the steep ascent which leads to the pass, until they were out of sight, and I felt quite discontented at not being able to accompany them; but I was too weak to ride, and donkeys and camels are the only conveyances to be hired in this Anglo-Arabian colony. Even these were not to be procured six months ago, and

strangers arriving by steam were obliged to remain where they were, or perform the excursion into camp on foot, which is no joke in this land of scorching cinders, where every object reflects, instead of shading one from the ardent rays of the sun, which is here never, except as a phenomenon, curtained by a friendly cloud.

I resisted the pressing invitation of Lieut. Crettendon and his friends to return with them in their boat to the ship, and determined to await the return of my party on the seashore, in the midst of a scene of grandeur and desolation such as I had never before beheld, and which is easier felt and imagined than described. I seated myself on a pile of stones on the beach, and gazed around me, dwelling upon each rugged feature of the landscape, until the whole, separately and collectively, was indelibly engraven on my recollection. How much I regretted, and still do regret, that I had left my sketch-book behind me, and thus lost the only chance of enabling my friends to form some idea of what I am vainly describing with my pen.

Immediately to my right, and stretching far into the bay, rose the rugged chain of rocky hills and promontories which command the narrow isthmus connecting the peninsula of Aden to the main land. The forms of these mountains, as they cut with the most minute distinctness against the clear evening sky, were magnificent yet terrible; they appeared as if, ejected from the deep centre of the globe by the fierce artillery of volcanoes, they had been left there on the surface of this fair earth, and on the very confines of "Araby the blest," blasted and hideous, as mementoes of nature's fearful convulsions, and as evidences of the mighty power of the Creator of the universe.

Their steep and barren sides presented an endless variety of shades from violet to red, and from black to bright yellow; the different strata of clay, sandstone, and quartz, were distinctly visible, while every here and there huge masses of apparent cinder were intermixed, with yawning chasms, which seemed so many entries to the unexplored bowels of the earth, but which, in fact, offer only an

asylum to troops of jackals. The grizzly summits of the rocks would lead one, at first, to imagine that none but the eagle or the vulture had rested their feet on their peaked points; but, on looking again, on the foremost promontory two modern bastions are erected, while, on the adjoining mountain, the remains of the Turkish Wall, famed in the bloody annals of Aden, are discovered, leading the eye on in its circuitous winding from peak to peak, until its course is interrupted by the Pass I have before mentioned, and which is rent through the solid rock.

But, overlooking this interruption, the wall is again discovered climbing the higher and more precipitous chain of mountains behind, until two culminating points appear to have arrested the work of man. But even these are crowned each by a ruined turret, now scarcely to be distinguished from the parent rock. However interesting it may be to trace this ruined wall, the erection of which must have cost so much labour, it seems almost impossible it could have been of any service on the defensive, as it is every

where commanded by towering rocks, which must have rendered it entirely useless. But to return to my sketch.

The chain of hills which, as I was seated, were behind me, rose almost directly from the sea, leaving scarcely a quarter of a mile of comparatively level ground, covered with shingles and sand. Their precipitous sides, black and burnt, seemed to frown upon me as I looked round at them, and filled me with an undefinable awe; they seemed as if they would fall and crush me with their burning surfaces, which, retaining all the heat of the mid-day sun, made the atmosphere in their vicinity almost scorching.

They extended in one unbroken line from the Pass, which was sawn through them, till they were hid from view by a mountain which jutted out boldly into the sea on my left, forming the small bay which was before me, and hiding the remainder of the gulf and the ships which were at anchor, thus rendering the solitude complete. No living thing, either bird or beast, appeared to frequent these dreary yet beautiful rocks,

except a few lizards, and they, from their similarity of colour, could scarcely be distinguished from the rock itself.

Towards the east one or two lofty peaks, blue in the distance, were seen towering above, as if peeping over this *flinty* wall at the bright bay of waters which lay stretched before me, rippling and bubbling like an azure lake, and clear as crystal, as if fresh from a mountain torrent, instead of forming a branch of the mighty Indian Ocean. Stretching far away on the opposite shore, were the sandy plains and towering mountains of Arabia Felix, glittering like gold in the setting sun.

Having feasted my eyes on this glorious scene, and indulged in a few waking dreams, prompted by the singularity of my situation, alone on this coast of desolation, in this clime of Eastern fable, I rose from my seat in order to explore, as far as my strength would allow me. At the foot of the chain of mountains I have been describing was the road, which runs a distance of about six miles between the Point or Sanatarium, and

the fortified camp or town of Aden. It emerged from between the promontory, and then continued uninterrupted until it turned towards the Pass, when it wound out of sight. I directed my steps in this direction; the ground was very rough and stony, and fatiguing to walk upon, but at every step I found something interesting; and between the fissures of stone and sand several plants, which had escaped my observation while surveying the whole of this gigantic scenery, were sprouting forth, bearing flowers and seeds in abundance, and apparently deriving all requisite nourishment from the burning rocks.

Amongst others I remarked huge patches of the thorny acacia, growing in bushes of about a foot high; they reminded me, in form and hue, of diminutive yew-trees. Then there were numbers of herbaceous plants in full bloom, and many of them strongly scented. Numerous insects were humming around, and each species seemed occupied with a distinct plant, as if they severally owed to it their life and nourish-

ment. Thus round every patch of a small yellow flowering plant, which was very abundant, swarms of butterflies were basking in the setting sun; they were all of the same hue, excepting that some were larger and rather paler, which I supposed were the females. The superior wings were of deep primrose colour, while the inferior ones were of the darkest and most brilliant orange, almost crimson. I never saw any thing like them before. I examined the leaves of the plant, and found numbers of greenish caterpillars, which I conclude belonged to the butterflies, as they were the only insects near.

Another plant, which struck me as being pretty and curious, was covered with diminutive white and lilach flowers on alternate stems. By the time I reached the coast, I had collected a very curious, if not a very showy, bouquet. Lured by the hopes of augmenting it, I wandered on for some distance, when, all at once, I saw, some twelve feet above my head, a flower of a much more attractive exterior than any I had yet met with. I immediately resolved it should be

mine; but how to obtain it was the difficulty, for it was growing on the steep side of the precipitous mountain.

I had formerly been a very good climber, but now I was so weak that my legs almost refused to perform their office. However, I determined to carry off the prize, and, at length, found a little crevice in the rock, from whence I could make my first step. This accomplished, after much toil and difficulty, and by clinging on by my hands and knees, I succeeded in reaching a point from whence I could gather the flower. It was really very pretty; it grew like the wall-flower, which it something resembled, only it was much handsomer; the colours were very brilliant, and the petals most beautifully and delicately veined. The flower-stalks were covered with thick black specks, making them sticky and glutinous. I never smelt any thing so highly scented; the perfume was different from every other, and quite overpowering, even in the open air; not that it was disagreeable, for had it been moderated it would have been delicious.

It was with great difficulty I gathered a few of the flowers and some of the seed pods, as the whole plant was surrounded by swarms of gigantic yellow bees, who buzzed round and round me as I was spoiling them of their booty. In fact, they so alarmed me that I threw down several of them I had culled, and should have abandoned the whole, had it not been that I so much wished G—— to sketch one. I pulled down my veil over my face, and prepared to descend, although my hand was surrounded by these insects. But upon turning round to regain the road, I found it was no longer deserted; a train of camels, variously loaded, were winding along immediately beneath my feet, and the wild and fearful countenances of their Arab owners, whose eyes were all turned in my direction, terrified me more than I can describe. I recollected all at once that I was in a land whose inhabitants had only recently been bound to an European yoke, and that by force, not free will, and I recollected I had been told that no one ever considered themselves completely

safe unless within the intrenchments of the camp.

I trembled from head to foot, and looked imploringly towards the sea, in hopes of discovering the boat, manned with English sailors, which had brought us from the ship, but they were nowhere to be seen, having gone round the headland to bathe. So, putting on the boldest countenance I was able, I began slowly to descend. The Arabs stopped, and glared upon me with their fierce, black eyes, and then, having satisfied their curiosity, proceeded harmlessly on their way. The warlike mien and savage look of these children of Esau contrasted strongly with the mild and feminine appearance of my Cingalese acquaintance, although the colour of both is the same.

As soon as they had passed on, I hastened to regain the beach, when I secured a stout young British tar as my protector. I made him sit down on a bank of stones near me, and, thus guarded, I felt as if I could defy a whole troop of Arabs, and watched with

great interest the various and grotesque groups that passed from time to time along the road.

This visit to Aden was the first occasion on which I had seen camels, except in a menagerie, and the novelty of the stately mien of these useful animals delighted me. Then there were troops of fifty or sixty donkeys, laden with skins of water, which they transport by this means from the town (where the only wells on the peninsula exist) to the gentlemen's houses on the Point. The transport of this water is the most expensive part of the domestic establishment, as every drop is brought a distance of six miles. Each donkey carries two skins, which are slung on either side like panniers.

I had been waiting about a hour and a half, and the sun was just sinking beneath the horizon, when four gentlemen, mounted on asses, galloped up to me at full speed. I recognised them as my fellow-passengers, Frenchmen, who were returning to the ship, after having spent the day in exploring the

camp. They did not observe me until they came close up; and, when they found me sitting all forlorn by the roadside, they were "*au désespoir.*" One of them got off, and begged I would mount his donkey, and accompany them back to the ship. But I refused, saying I would wait for my husband. "Ne vous fiez pas aux maris," said the gay young Frenchman; "he will not return under three hours, for we met them only just entering the town." However, I persisted in remaining, and they pursued their way without me.

Soon after, the sun sank, and darkness succeeded immediately.

I cannot describe the stillness that pervaded every thing. Not a breath of wind was stirring, and the lofty mountains seemed increased in magnitude by the pale light of the stars, for the moon had not yet risen. The atmosphere was mild and light, and very dry. No dew was falling, consequently one may sleep harmlessly in the open night-air. I felt almost inclined to indulge in a nap, when suddenly I heard a tramp close to me:

I turned round, and found my husband and the captain, on their camel, innocently going to ride over me; for it was too dark for them to distinguish me on the ground. I had scarcely time to get out of their way, and call out; but they did not hear me, and passed on.

The sailor and I soon rejoined them at the hut, where they had gone to seek me; but, as their two companions on donkeys had not come up, we still were obliged to wait. A tonjon was on the beach, ready to carry one of the inhabitants, its owner, to the camp. G—— and I got into it, while the captain sat in the boat.

He told me the town was much farther off than he expected, and gave me such an account of the singularity of its construction, and the beauty of its situation, that I determined to visit it, if possible; and I was quite vexed when G—— told me that he had been introduced to Dr. Malcolmson, the civil surgeon of Aden, and that he and Mrs. M. had invited us to pass with them the remainder of the time the India was

in port, and that they would send their palanquin for us; but that he had refused, upon the plea of my being such an invalid. However, I determined to accept their kind offer, and had a note sent the next morning to say so.

We waited another hour, and then, the gentlemen not having made their appearance, we determined to row back without them, imagining, what was really the case, that they had passed the place of rendezvous, and had gone off to the coal-wharf and found another boat.

The moon by this time had risen in all her splendour, and threw her soft, melancholy light over the rugged scenery, lending a fresh charm to the natural beauty it possessed. We glided swiftly over the water, which was gently undulating, and varying the gigantic shadows reflected on its glassy surface. The only sound we heard was the even splash of the oars, as they impelled the frail bark swiftly forward. As if by mutual consent, no one spoke a word, and I felt awe-

struck with admiration at the lovely scene. I never shall forget the soft beauty and majestic grandeur of that Arabian evening.

When we reached the ship a very different scene awaited us; every thing was confusion, noise, and dirt. The deck was covered with coals; and the demoniac figures of the labourers, who were yelling with all their might, was terrific. I sighed for the quiet beach I had left, and retired to my cabin to pass a sleepless night.

CHAPTER II.

Mutiny of Coolies—Good Swimmers—Man selling Fish—Sharks and Fish—Sickness on Board—Death—Desert Grave—Visit—Leave the Ship—Coal Dépôt—Dance of Coolies while at Work—Palanquin—Wild Scenery—The Pass—Wall of Sand Bags—Sepoy Soldiers—First View of Camp—Island of Sera—Streets—Bungalows—Dinner—Moonlight View—Evening Gun—Singular Room—Night Air—Early Rising—Historical Sketch—Modern Aspect—Tonjon—Soldiers' Quarters—Bazar—Jews—Parsees—Arabs—Jewish Girl—Provision, Camels, &c.—Supplies—Caravan—Fruit, Vegetables, &c.—Camels feeding—Aden—Wells—Groups—Honey from Arabia—Pet Crow—Hot Wind—Atmosphere—Minerals—Expedition—Camp of Tents—Turkish Wall—The Siege—Panoramic View—Pelicans—Mountains—Alarm—Hotel—Departure.

CHAPTER II.

June 14*th.*—There was quite a mutiny on board this morning amongst the natives, who refused to work because they were not allowed sufficient water. An agreement is always made with them that, independently of their pay, they are to be found in water, and it is their greatest luxury during their incessant toil under a burning sun. It is quite painful to see the eagerness with which they swallow it, although what is furnished for their use is of the worst quality, and so brackish, that no European would allow it to pass his lips.

On the present occasion, the supply having failed, they desisted from work, and the first mate being very angry, attempted to strike one of them; he immediately jumped

overboard, and was followed by all his companions. They then swam on shore, a distance of at least half a mile, and refused to return for several hours. They did the same thing, upon the slightest provocation, during the whole time the India was there, which delayed her very much.

It is wonderful what good swimmers they are. They always went away and came to work by this means, which they seemed to prefer to a boat; and while in the water played all sorts of difficult feats and antics.

This morning a man came to the side of the ship to sell fish, paddling himself along on a raft made of a few sticks tied together, upon which he sat with his basket by his side. G. made a faithful sketch of him while he was bargaining with the sailors. The fish were very beautiful, both in form and colour. They say there are no sharks in the Back Bay of Aden, although they swarm in every other part, but I should be rather fearful, as many of the sailors assured us they had seen some playing near the ship. However, many of the gentlemen indulged in

bathing, with impunity as far as regarded sharks; but one of them came in contact with some other finny enemy, which wounded and poisoned his feet so severely, that he was disabled for the remainder of the voyage.

A very distressing event occurred to-day, and threw a gloom over the whole ship's company. One of the engineers had been taken very ill with that scourge of the East, dysentery, soon after he left Calcutta; his life was despaired of, but on his arrival at Galle he was so much better that he thought he could continue the voyage. However, he had a relapse, and all through the late stormy weather he had been getting worse and worse. As soon as we anchored, he was taken on shore by his own request, and lodged in a hut on the beach. This morning he expired, and is to be buried in the evening, in a deserted spot amongst the rocks.

I had never seen the man, and yet he appeared to me as if he were one of us; and I could not refrain from shedding tears

when I saw his comrades, dressed in their best clothes, row on shore to carry him to the grave—a grave so lonely and so forlorn, where no eye of affection or kindred would ever rest, and which no tear save that of Heaven could ever moisten.

Dr. and Mrs. Malcolmson having renewed their kind invitation, we left the ship at about five o'clock, and made direct for the shore, where Mrs. Malcolmson's palanquin was waiting for me at the coal dépôt. I had not landed at this point before, and was much diverted by the grotesque dance of the coolies who were carrying the coal in baskets to the boat. There were about forty of them, and all in an incessant motion, dancing up and down, and keeping time to a barbarian song in which they all joined, partaking of a yell and a howl. To this measure they passed the baskets from one to the other, while those who were for the moment unemployed filled up the measure by clapping their hands violently together. I never witnessed so grotesque a scene, and the fearfulness of the picture was heightened

by the tangled masses of red hair that hung round their distorted jet black features. Close by was a large pair of scales for weighing the coals.

I placed myself in the palanquin, and until then I never knew what the luxury of such a conveyance was; for in Ceylon the bearers were always so ill matched, and carried it so unevenly, that the motion was often distressing. But these were Bombay bearers, and the springing movement given by the short trotting run which they constantly kept up was delightful, and they scarcely paused in changing. G—— followed me on horseback.

We kept the road by the sea-shore, which constantly presented the boldest and wildest scenery of grotesque and barren rocks. After passing a narrow defile between two mountains, we reached the scene of my last evening's adventures, and then suddenly came upon the Pass, the only access to the Camp of Aden on this side, the lofty and precipitous mountains forming an impregnable fortification.

This entrance, which is cut out through the solid rock, is at the extreme end of the valley in which the town is situated. The approach to it is at present defended by a temporary wall formed of sand-bags piled closely one upon another. It has a very singular appearance, but I am told it is a very efficacious substitute for brick and mortar. A strong guard is always posted at this spot, and here for the first time I saw Sepoy soldiers: they belonged to the 4th Bombay infantry, I think. The bright red uniform contrasting with their black complexions, appeared the more strange to me, as the Ceylon rifle regiment of Malays wore green.

The passage through the arch looked so high and narrow, one might almost compare it to the eye in a darning-needle. The road is very rough and impassable for a carriage. When we issued out from the Pass, which almost excluded the feeble light of the setting sun, the whole valley of Aden lay like a map before us, hemmed in on three sides by precipitous mountains rising up straight and

barren like a mighty wall, almost to the sky, while on the fourth, and immediately opposite to us, was the sea; but even here the view was bounded by the island rock of Sera, completing the fortification of this eastern Gibraltar.

But the town! where was the town? how shall I describe it, this ancient and jewelled key to all the treasures of Arabia Felix! The only way I can attempt to give any idea of it is to say what struck me at the first glance. I saw clustered together throughout the valley a number of large baskets, like those to be met with at fairs in England and France, to display crockeryware and other fragile articles. Here and there were a few tents, and in the centre towered a lofty minaret, while farther in the background rose the domes of two mosques. But where are the houses? I exclaimed. There they are; and that very large hamper in the centre is Government House, was the answer I received.

It was long before I could recover from my surprise; although, having just come from the jungles of Ceylon, I had no very substantial visions of masonry in my mind. But I must

reserve any more lengthened description of this singular place for to-morrow, as the shades of evening soon gathered round it, and by the time we were threading its wicker streets all was in obscurity, except where here and there some torch or lamp was flaming in the gentle breeze, threatening the fragile city with destruction.

At length, we reached the foot of the rock upon which Dr. Malcolmson's bungalow is built. I felt by the sudden dip of the palanquin how steep was the ascent. In a few minutes we had arrived at the summit, when Dr. Malcolmson met us, and welcomed us in the most friendly way. By his assistance I climbed up a steep rugged piece of rock which led into the balcony, and from thence into one of the prettiest rooms I ever saw, where Mrs. Malcolmson received us most kindly and cordially. In a few minutes, we were seated round a cheerful English dinner-table; two officers of the garrison had been invited to meet us, and the hospitality of our kind host and hostess made us forget that we were strangers.

After dinner we adjourned to the balcony, which was fitted up with a great deal of taste, and commanded a most magnificent view of the town, the mountains, and the sea, now bathed in moonlight, harmonizing all into beauty. The drums and fifes of the regiment quartered in the barracks near the foot of the hill, which were playing their evening tattoo, gave a martial charm, and made us remember we were in a camp in an enemy's country.

At this moment I was startled by the loud report of a cannon, which shook the frail tenement, and resounded with a lengthened echo through the hills. It was the eight o'clock gun, which stood only a stone's throw from the house, and on the same rock. I retired early to rest, as I was anxious to have a quiet night after the many comfortless ones I had passed on board the hòrrid steamer.

I was so delighted with my room that I must describe it, as I never had slept, and probably never shall sleep, in a similar one. The door, or rather the curtain (for door

there was none), led out of the balcony of which I have just been speaking. The walls, in common with the rest of the house, were composed of bamboos, fixed into the ground at even distances, and connected by panels of matting; the ceiling, which was formed into an alcove, was covered with the same material, but all looked so fresh and rustic that the effect was charming; a few pictures hung upon the matting walls, giving them a more furnished appearance.

One side of the apartment led into a private verandah, by means of two open doorways; this was provided with sofa, tables, and books, like a little boudoir. The view was the same as from the sitting-room, only more extensive towards the sea, and one looked out through Gothic arches of rustic work. At one end a matting door led out on the rock; G——, by opening it rather roughly, broke it off its hinges, so it remained open all the time we were there.

On the other side of the bed-room were two similar doors, leading into other parts

of the bungalow. The furniture was very handsome, and the muslin toilet and dressing-stool cover were as elegant as any in the most stylish house in England.

I have shewn by this description that we were literally sleeping out in the open air, as there were no doors, windows, nor venetians to close, and any breath of wind agitated the fragile walls. I was awoke in the night by the musquito curtains blowing quite up; the wind had risen, and came every now and then with sudden gusts; but its breath was so soft, warm, and dry, that I, who had never ventured to bear a night-blast in Ceylon, felt it was harmless.

June 15th. — I rose by daybreak this morning, as G—— was engaged to take a long ride with Dr. M. and I was to make the tour of the town. Mrs. Malcolmson had procured a delightful "tonjon" for me, and, accompanied by one of her servants, I began my peregrinations, just as the sun had thrown his first ray over the gray hills. But I think I shall do well to throw a retrospective glance on the bygone

days of this Arabian Eden, before I commence a matter-of-fact account of its present aspect.

According to Niebuhr, Aden formed one of the thirteen independent states of Yemen. It was the emporium of all the riches of India, and the key to the treasures and perfumes of Araby the Blest. The commerce of these mines of wealth passed through her hands, and contributed to her riches and prosperity. It was for some time in the possession of the Turks, and suffered much during their wars with the Portuguese, when its commerce was, in a great measure, transferred to Mocha; but even so late as the beginning of the eighteenth century, at which time it was visited by the French, it was described as being a town of considerable extent, filled with elegant buildings, magnificent mosques, and minarets, while the public baths were lined with jasper, and adorned with galleries supported by splendid pillars.

The houses were mostly two stories high, and very spacious. The markets were abundantly and luxuriantly supplied, but

the masses of ruins and rubbish shewed that the day of its prosperity had departed. No traces of this splendour now remain; not even the shaft of a pillar or a broken arch rears its head to testify the change that time has effected, and, were it not for the solitary minaret, crumbling with age, and the two mosques I have mentioned, one would be tempted to believe the present occupiers were the first; that none but basket buildings had ever reared their heads in this desert valley; and, in short, that nothing but British enterprise would have peopled it.

My tonjon was carried through all the principal streets, and at every turn the most novel and curious sights presented themselves to my view. I passed through the quarters of two of the regiments, which looked like a long line of hen-coops. The married soldiers appeared particularly comfortable, a double row of separate houses being appropriated to them, two families in each house. The officers lived in little huts, hung round with loose mats, and entirely open to the air.

The bazar was a very amusing assemblage of objects both animate and inanimate. Jews, with their sharp black eyes and long beards, were hurrying to and fro, and contrasted strangely with the stately Parsees, worshippers of the sun, and of Persian origin. Their head-dress is the most extraordinary thing I ever saw; it is a kind of helmet cap, at least two feet high, and sloping back from the forehead. Their complexion is a light olive colour, and they are the most industrious class in Aden; they share with the Jews in the labours of building and shop-keeping, as the Arabs are either very idle, or do not wish to make our residence among them easy by assisting us in any way.

The aspect of these children of the desert was very furious, and their jet black countenances scowled under the constraint imposed upon them by our military, parties of whom were to be seen in every direction, whose bright uniforms gave another variety to the motley and picturesque groups. Every now and then I encountered a rich coffee-merchant from Mocha, sweeping ma-

jestically along in his flowing robes and voluminous white turban. The place was thronged with people, and yet I saw very few females, and these few were mostly old and ill-looking.

All classes here are very jealous of their women, but I caught sight of the most lovely young Jewish girls, who peeped out upon me as I passed, from a wicker birdcage—I can call it nothing else—which was perched at the top of one of the *hamper* houses.

It was just the time when the supplies were coming into the market. From eighty to one hundred camel loads are brought in fresh every morning from the main land. The gates are opened to them at a certain hour, and they are all obliged to be out of camp by six in the evening. Fruit, vegetables, forage for the horses, in short, every necessary of life, is brought from the enemy's territory, upon which they are entirely dependent. And when these supplies are stopped, which they often have been, they are obliged to force their continuance at the point of the sword.

It was a very amusing sight to watch this long caravan winding into the town. Some camels were loaded with baskets of beautiful grapes, melons, dates, and peaches, others with vegetables, but the greater number with poultry, grass, and straw. As soon as they were unloaded, the owners proceeded to feed their camels. They were all fed from the hand, to avoid wasting any portion of the food; every thing being so precious here. The graceful animals were lying about in every direction, in the most picturesque attitudes imaginable.

I passed by several wells, which are held in as much veneration as brooks are elsewhere, any drop of water being more valuable than gold. Crowds of people were round, waiting for their turn to be served, and troops of donkeys posted with skins to carry it to more distant parts of the town; the price paid for this necessary of life is enormous. There are only two wells that are good, and these afford by no means an abundant supply.

I had been out about an hour and a half, when the sun became so powerful I

was obliged to return. I found Mrs. Malcolmson waiting for breakfast, and I tasted some of the most delicious honey I had ever met with. It had been brought from the interior of Arabia in a large gourd; it was fully equal, if not superior, to Narbonne honey.

I could not help being amused at a pet bird of the doctor's, which he fed and took the greatest care of: it was nothing more or less than a raven. I asked him what could have induced him to choose such a singular favourite; but he laughed, and assured me it was quite a legitimate one, as this was the first and only raven which had ever been seen at Aden, and that it was considered a great curiosity.

I never experienced any thing like the heat of this place; Ceylon is nothing to it: and just now the hot wind prevails, every puff of which appears as if blown from a furnace; the air, besides, is filled with minute particles of sand, which not only nearly chokes one, but is very prejudicial to the eyes. Notwithstanding all this, I am pleased with the atmosphere of Aden: sand

apart, it is exceedingly pure and dry, and very elastic. I believe it is now generally considered healthy, and the power of remaining constantly in the open air with impunity is a great luxury in a tropical climate.

We spent the whole morning in drinking soda-water, ginger-beer, and, what is still better, fresh water cooled, I may almost say iced, in the porous jars from Mocha. They are placed in a draught, and the rapid evaporation caused by the heat soon reduces the water to a very low temperature.

Dr. Malcolmson shewed me a large collection of minerals he had made from the rocks in the neighbourhood; many of them were exceedingly beautiful, and they shew that very extensive and useful researches, both in geology and mineralogy, might be made in these desert hills, many of which appear to be of volcanic origin. He gave me several very pretty little specimens.

As soon as the excessive heat of the sun had begun to moderate, we started this afternoon to visit the camp that is pitched at the termination of the causeway which unites

Aden to the mainland of Arabia. I took my seat in the tonjon, while Mrs. M. and G—— accompanied me on horseback. The former was mounted on a beautiful little spirited milk-white Arab, which she called Mahmoone. We followed the same road I came last night until we emerged from the Pass, when we took the sea road to the right, which wound round a bold promontory of frowning rock, and then ran between the principal range and a fortified mountain which rose precipitous from the sea, by which it was surrounded on three sides.

The Turkish Wall followed all the sinuosities of the ridge on our right, over the steep sides of which it climbed until it suddenly descended to the sandy plain below, and ran in a parallel direction across the narrow isthmus of sand I have described. This is our barrier line, and here are constantly encamped a considerable body of troops. I had never seen a tented field before, and was quite delighted with the effect and the martial bearing it gave to every thing. No one can pass the boundary

without traversing the whole length of the camp; but the sea in the vicinity is so shallow, that under cover of darkness large parties of armed Arabs have often marched round to the town. This was the scene of the last stand made against British invasion, and Mrs. M. told me she rode round just after it was over, and while the ground was still strewed with the slain.

June 16th.—I did not rise early enough this morning to go from the house, and we spent the whole day in the verandah, conversing and looking at the curious panorama which the elevated position of Dr. M.'s house displayed to us in perfection. G—— took out his brush, and daubed a rough sketch of the whole, beginning at the extreme left, where the island of Sera rose in the centre of the beautiful bay, which at that moment was covered with a flight of pelicans. The water is so shallow that the smallest fishing-boat will barely float, but from our bird's-eye view we discovered several large ships lying about five miles out in the roads beyond the bay. Farther on, and nearly

facing us, was one of the gateways which leads to a small bay. Next is the minaret, surrounded by little bungalows of stone and matting; the two mosques and a large house belonging to a Mocha merchant are the only stone buildings. The mountains, which begin from the sea, become more lofty as they run further inland, until, towards the right and back of the house, they are treble the height. The rock which forms the end of the panorama is that on which the bungalow is built, and from whence the evening or morning gun is fired. The sketch reminds one of the place exactly, but it would be vain to attempt to imitate the colours of the mountains, which are more beautiful and varied than can be conceived or described.

We have just heard that an attack of several thousand Arabs is expected either to-night or to-morrow: all the officers are on the alert, and double guards are ordered out; but, as we are to sail to-night, we have no chance of the novelty of a blockade.

We dined early, and then started with regret for the ship. Mrs. Malcolmson went

in the tonjon, and I in her palanquin. I felt quite sad at leaving Aden, which Dr. and Mrs. M. had made so agreeable to us; and I was quite enchanted with the primitive way of life which is led there. The sun was scorching hot, and we had a very overpowering journey to the point where the boat was waiting for us. There is an hotel building near this spot, for the accommodation of passengers by the steamers, who have no resource but remaining on board, or sleeping on the sea-shore.

When we reached the ship we found we had arrived two or three hours too soon, for they were still coaling, and all was dirt and confusion. Mrs. M. remained till we were under way, and we then parted with mutual regret. Their kindness had been excessive, and they quite loaded us with little luxuries, such as filtered water, porous vases, honey, &c. &c.

CHAPTER III.

Coast of Arabia—Hadramant—Arabia Felix—Straits of Babel Mandeb—Isle of Perim—Arab Dows—Arab Pilot—Arabian Shore—Mocha—Date Grove—Gebel Tar—Lohei—Tame Bird—Coral Reefs—Remarks on the Red Sea—Coral Islands—Jidda—Mecca—Emerald Mountains—Berenice—The Brothers—Cosseir—Ras Mohammed—Peninsula of Sinai—Gulf of Suez—Mount Sinai—Table of the Twelve Commandments—Rock of Meribah—Imaginative Travellers—Convents of St. Catherine—Tor—El Bourg—Bell Mountain—Baths of Pharaoh—Passage of the Israelites—Valley of Baideah—Howarah, or Marah—Ayoun Mousa—Suez—India Steamer—Arab Boat—Approach to Suez—Landing—Hotel—Jealousy of Mohammed Ali—Hotel-Yard.

CHAPTER III.

June 17th.—At daybreak this morning we were running within a mile of the coast of Arabia, which every where presented a striking picture of desolation and ruin. A wall of naked rocks, dismal and barren, rose precipitous from the sea, while behind them several ranges of dreary mountains reared their flinty heads, brown and bare, to a height of 1000 or 1500 feet. Not the slightest symptom of vegetation relieved the eye; all seemed dead both to animal and vegetable life. Its savage and inhospitable aspect appears almost to justify the fables of the ancients relative to the shores of the Arabian Gulf, fraught as they are with horror and mystery. These terrors of antiquity have been preserved in the modern nomenclature

of the southern province, viz. "Hadramant," or "the Region of Death."

I felt awe-struck as I gazed upon these rugged peaks, whose flinty bosoms supply no nourishment to the parched soil, and whose summits attract no beneficent clouds to curtain it from the burning rays of a tropical sun. How truly has the prophet Jeremiah described it, "a land of deserts and of pits, a land of drought and of the shadow of death, a land that no man passed through." (Jer. ii. 6.) And yet this is the rampart which guards the fabled land of incense and of sweets; a dark and wild fortification it is, and it seems "as if Nature herself, by the impenetrable deserts and oceans with which she had surrounded it, had set bounds to the cupidity of mortals."*

At about twelve o'clock we were entering the Straits of Babel Mandeb, and I cannot describe the feeling, almost approaching to awe, which came over me as we swiftly

* History of Arabia, Ancient and Modern, by A. Chrihton.

approached this portcullis of the Red Sea, rendered so interesting by the scenes in sacred history which were enacted in its vicinity. As soon as we were close to the Straits, the power of the steam was diminished in order that we might go more safely and surely through the narrow and dangerous channel, the very name of it signifying in Arab "the Gate of Tears;" while the opposite coast, so black and terrific in its aspect, was styled the Cape of Burials.

Till the last few years, not only this part, but the whole of the navigation of the Red Sea, was fraught with dangers and difficulties, which, although partly imaginary, were in a great measure founded on the immense number of sunken rocks and extensive coral reefs which occupy the major part of the Arabian Gulf. Now, however, thanks to the able and exact surveys of our countrymen, and the charts which have been made from them, our ships can pursue their voyage in security, in the channel so carefully marked out for them; while the traveller may amuse himself with listening to the tales of ship-

wreck, and of those wild spirits whose laughter rang from rock to rock, stifling by their mirth the cries of the drowning mariner.

The scenery on either side the Straits is grand and rugged in the extreme, and awful in its barren blackness. The shores of Arabia and Abyssinia appear as if vying with each other in savageness and sterility. The gulf is divided by the Isle of Perim, which is about three miles from the coast of Arabia, and presents the same arid, rocky aspect. The width of the channel is computed to be between twelve and fourteen miles, although, to judge from the eye, it appears much narrower. But this is probably owing to the refraction in the atmosphere, which lessens the apparent distance of objects in an extraordinary degree.

Notwithstanding the inhospitable and rugged features of this singular coast, the effect of the whole was strikingly beautiful, which, added to the novelty, and the associations inevitably conjured up by the first view of the Red Sea, made the time during which we were running through "the Gate of

Tears" never to be forgotten. The sun was shining in all its mid-day tropical splendour, lending an additional brilliancy to the many island rocks, whose flinty heads appeared almost quivering beneath his burning rays. No sound was heard save the roaring of the sea, whose sapphire waves rushed tumultuously through its narrow flood-gates to the ocean.

At one time, we passed two Arab dows scudding before the wind. Their picturesque construction, and the contrast afforded by their snow-white cotton sails, added greatly to the effect, in the same manner that a well-placed figure enhances the beauty of a painter's landscape.

While on the subject of figures, I must not forget to mention one in the shape of our Arab pilot, that a Teniers or a Holbein would have delighted in. We took him on board at Aden, but I did not remark him till we were passing the Straits, when he was seated in full majesty on one of the paddle-boxes, giving directions as to the bearings of the different landmarks, which

were quite thrown away, as neither the captain nor any of the crew spoke or understood a word of Arabic, and were entirely guided by the charts. However, this did not appear to discourage the worthy Mussulman, for throughout our voyage in the Arabian Gulf he was constantly at his post.

His dress was grotesquely picturesque, but composed of such various articles and of such varied colours that I cannot describe it. His swarthy countenance, which appeared from beneath the folds of a voluminous turban, was exceedingly striking, both for sagacity and intellect. His large black eyes were quite piercing, and although he appeared advanced in age, his teeth were of a dazzling whiteness and perfect in shape. He took all his meals by himself, and religiously observed the hours of prayer prescribed by his creed, making his prostrations with the greatest solemnity on his paddle-box, before all the ship's company. He became a great favourite on board, and was often sent for to the quarter-deck, to point out the different mountains and spots of interest; and

his intelligence, aided by signs, soon made us understand him.

The coast presented nearly the same aspect during the whole of to-day; we kept near the Arabian shore. Late in the afternoon we passed in sight of Mocha, the summit of whose great mosque serves as an important landmark to ships. Viewed from the sea it appears a very handsome town; the houses are lofty, and of a dazzling whiteness, looking as if built of white marble, and the numerous domes and minarets give it an imposing appearance. By the assistance of a glass I could discover the most minute objects, and saw the two forts very distinctly. Towards the south a grove of date-palms refresh the eye, and afford a strong contrast to the brown and barren hills around.

June 18*th*.—A favourable breeze bore us swiftly on our course during the whole night, and in the morning we were off Gebel Tar, a volcanic island, which is nearly opposite the town of Loheia in Arabia. The sea became now so wide that it was only here and

there we could catch the outline of the mountainous shores on either side.

A bird flew on board to-day, which G. caught; it was so tame that it perched fearlessly on his head and shoulder. It was web-footed, and had a sharp-pointed beak. Its plumage was of a glossy black, with a white patch on the top of the head. He kept it on board all night, and made a sketch of it the next morning. When he gave it its liberty, it returned to the ship, and pitched upon the awning, as if unwilling to forsake us. The captain remained on deck all day, and did not even come down to dinner; the navigation is so intricate on account of the numerous coral reefs and low rocky islands, that he scarcely ventures to take his eyes off the chart.

June 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d.—The last few days have been passed in a pleasing *monotony of interest*, if I may use the expression. Our course lay nearly in the centre of the gulf, nearest, if any thing, to the Abyssinian shore. Sometimes during

the whole twenty-four hours we scarcely sighted land, while at others our interest was constantly kept alive by passing within a stone's throw of some of those islands of desert rock with which the Red Sea is so plentifully intersected, or by catching sight of some of the lofty mountains of Africa, whose entrails contain the hidden and mysterious sources of the mighty Nile.

The Arabian Gulf is computed at 1160 miles in length, while its average breadth is 120. On every side it is bounded by precipitous barriers of rock, through which it appears to have worn itself a channel, and against which it dashes in blind fury, bubbling and hissing under the influence of wind and tempest. But to see this singular expanse of water in perfection it should be contemplated when calm, or when slightly rippled by a gentle breeze, for then the extreme clearness of its bright blue waves cannot fail to excite wonder and admiration; every pebble may be distinctly seen, although at a depth of thirty fathoms.

And what a new world is discovered

through this veil of waters! what treasures for the naturalist! In one part are forests of pale pink and red coral spreading forth their luxuriant branches, giving a blush to the element which bathes them; a few miles further, sprouting from the golden sands, are gardens of every form and growth, in the shape of coraline of the purest white, tipped here and there by the brightest violets; while, on the other side, the eye is relieved from the aspect of the arid rocks of dingy brown, by submarine groves and forests of the brightest green. Shells of the most exquisite form and colour are yielded from this fairy region, and fish of brilliant hues sport amongst its beauties, adding animation to its charms.

The navigation is peculiarly difficult and dangerous, owing to the formidable reefs of coral that intersect it in every direction, and which are constantly increasing. In many instances they rise several feet above the level of the water; towards the northern part they are the most numerous, and the winding safely through them is painfully in-

teresting. We passed close to many of the groups of rocky islands with which the Red Sea abounds, all, without exception, presenting the same arid and iron-bound aspect as the mainland.

We did not approach near enough to sight Jidda, but the mountainous land which surrounds Mek'keh was distinctly visible, while on the African side rise the lofty peaks of the far-famed Emerald Mountains of the ancients. Near Berenice we passed some islands bearing the name of the same precious gem, with which they were supposed to abound; but since minute inquiries have been made on the subject, nothing more valuable than green fluor spar has been found.

Not far from Cosseir we came close upon two islands of very singular formation, called "the Brothers." There are some of the same name near the Straits of Babel Mandeb. I passed Cosseir with regret. I would have given much to have landed there, and made a pilgrimage to the venerable ruins of Thebes, Luxor, and Carnac, but my

health forbade any thing so agreeable. The mere sailing up the Red Sea, however, was a pleasure never to be forgotten, and afforded abundant food for reflection and interest, sanctified as it is by one of the greatest of God's miracles for His chosen people.

June 23d.—Passed Ras Mohammed, the extreme point of the peninsula of Sinai, which divides the gulf into two branches, that of Akaba and Suez: the former is comparatively little known by modern navigators. The western branch, or the Gulf of Suez, which we now entered, is, owing to the contrary winds which generally prevail there, considered the most difficult part of the voyage. It is about 160 miles in length. From the moment of its entrance the interest and excitement thickens, so that it is almost impossible to tear one's self away from the deck; every moment some well-known spot in history, either sacred or profane, is pointed out to one's straining and eager eyes.

The lofty peaks of Mount Sinai rear their heads in the blue distance, and it was impossible to look in that direction without a feel-

ing of awe and veneration. This sacred mountain is equally respected by the Mohammedans and Christians. The twin summits are known in Arabia by the names of "Gebel Mousa" and "Gebel Catherine." On the summit of the former stands the ruins of a church, under which the Arabs believe that the original tables of the Ten Commandments are buried. The spot where the brazen serpent was erected is still pointed out; also the rock from whence Moses beheld the battle between Joshua and the Amalekites. A small chapel, dedicated to St. Elias, they imagine to be the scene of the miraculous repasts sent from Heaven by ravens to the prophet Elijah.

In the valley between the two mounts is a block of granite, supposed to identify the "rock of Meribah," which, when struck by the rod of Moses, supplied a fountain of pure water to the perishing Israelites. Indefatigable and imaginative travellers have even gone so far as to state that they have found the vestiges of the flames which issued from the bush, when the Hebrew lawgiver was

called by the great Creator of the universe to deliver His chosen people. But I cannot help feeling that such researches approach almost to profanation; and no reflective mind could suppose that the ethereal flames of God's Holy Spirit would leave behind them similar traces to those of terrestrial origin. And besides, do not the words of sacred writ expressly state, that although "the bush burned with fire, the bush was not consumed?"—Exod. iii. 2. If, then, this frail plant was spared, is it likely the rock of granite upon which it grew should be scathed?

But, laying aside all these useless researches, the mountain of Sinai must stand to the world's end a visible monument of the power and mercy of the Almighty; and none but an atheist could be unmoved while beholding it, and recalling to mind the many miracles performed on its hallowed ground.

Gebel Catherine is so called from the saint of that name, whose mortal remains are said to have been transported there by angels, after she had suffered martyrdom at Alex-

andria. A large convent, dedicated to her, is erected upon the mountain, and inhabited by about thirty Greek monks, who retain their stronghold against the attacks of the wandering Bedouins by a tax, which consists in feeding all who pass that way. As they never admit them within their convent, they lower down the bread in a basket. Scarcely a day passes without their supplying food to at least thirty or forty persons.

Near Tor, which we next sighted, is the small convent of "El Bourg," belonging to the same fraternity; it is inhabited by a solitary monk, who is placed there to superintend some large gardens of date-trees, from whence they draw their principal revenue. Tor is identified as the ancient Elim. A little to the south of this place we passed "Gebel Narkous," or Bell Mountain; it is said to emit a sound resembling musical glasses. This phenomenon has been variously but never satisfactorily explained.

Towards evening, and near Wady Gharendel, "Hammam Faraoun," or the baths of Pharaoh, were pointed out to us on the

eastern shore. The water (which is so hot that it is said an egg may be boiled hard in it in a few minutes) lies within a grotto; it is considered very efficacious for medicinal purposes. Every spot was intensely interesting, and the scenery was wild and striking in the extreme, and different from any thing else I had ever seen. At length the curtain of darkness fell around, and hid from our view that wilderness of sand and mountains amongst whose labyrinths once wandered the host of the children of Israel, guided by a pillar of fire.

June 24th.—By daybreak I resumed my seat on deck; we were just passing within a stone's throw of a large rocky island, and immediately after were gliding through the glassy scenes of that portion of the Red Sea the waves of which retired on either side, to afford a dry passage through its centre for the children of Israel, forming a wall of waters on the right hand and on the left.

Never till this moment, when I was sailing over the very theatre of this great miracle, did I comprehend its wonder, and, so to speak,

its *incredibility for mortal minds.* I gazed from the side of the vessel into the depth of the water, which is here about thirty fathoms. I saw the golden sands below; those sands which have never known the impress of human feet since those of the sacred multitude, excepting indeed their impious and hardened pursuers, whose winding-sheet was that wall of waters.

I had in my mind's eye that moving mass of men, women, and children, accompanied by their flocks and herds, entering fearlessly upon the road opened for them by the hand of God, and continuing peaceably on their way, safe as if on dry land. Ere they were landed on that shore, blue in the distance, another multitude, equally numerous, covered with jewelled armour and borne on gilded chariots drawn by neighing and eager horses, rushed boldly and tumultuously to the pursuit of these poor Hebrew shepherds. On they went, until their van had reached the centre of the road, and their prey appeared almost within their grasp; but the last of this haughty band had scarcely left the shore,

when God gave the word, a rushing wind was heard, the mighty walls dissolved, and nothing but foaming waves were to be seen rolling over that noble road, and obliterating it for ever. Then arose the scream of many deaths, and the groans of the departed multitude.

I shook off the painful dream, produced by finding myself on the scene of this great deliverance and Divine chastisement, and looked about me, endeavouring to impress the landscape indelibly on my mind. I fully succeeded, for I never can forget it.

Various travellers have fixed, at different places, the exact spot where the miraculous event occurred — some higher up the sea, near Suez and Ayoun Mousa, while others suppose it was much lower down, near Tor; but I think the general opinion sides with Dr. Shaw, who fixes it at the spot I am now describing, viz. from "Gebel Attakah" to the opposite desert of Shur; supposing the "valley of Baidiah," (Miraculous,) and which still bears the name of "Tiah-Beni-Israel," or the path of the Israelites, to be

that in which the children of Israel were encamped betwixt Migdol and the sea. Baal-zephon is identified with "Gebel Attakah," signifying the hill of deliverance. The sea is at this part ten miles wide. We were very close into the western coast, and the opposite shore of the desert of Shur was only just visible.

It was impossible to look without emotion on this "valley of Baidiah," where they passed the night previously to crossing. It presented altogether one of the most singular scenes I had ever beheld. On the foot of the mountains, sloping down on each side of the ravine, are a number of white rocks, having the exact appearance of a tented field, adding much to the thrilling effect. To the south is the lofty range of "Gebel Attakah," while to the north the mountains rise by degrees in one straight, unbroken line, like a wall of rock. The sun was shining full upon them, and shewed their tints, varying from pale straw-colour to bright red.

Continuing on our course, we passed

"Howara," whose bitter waters make it correspond with those of Marah of the Scriptures, which were sweetened by Moses for the necessity of the people.

The next thing pointed out to us was "Ayoun Mousa," or the wells of Moses; they are lukewarm sulphureous springs.

June 25th.—Soon after twelve o'clock we cast anchor in the roads of Suez; a short time before which we passed several islands as barren as the mainland; the principal of these are called "the Juffatines." I cannot conceive any thing more dreary than the aspect of this coast: some arid mountains of dismal brown rose on either side, and then came deserts and sand-banks jutting out in every direction. We could not see the town from where we were anchored; and as the sun was scorching hot, and we saw no prospect of commencing our journey to-day, every body agreed to remain quietly on board until after dinner.

As soon as our arrival was known, several people (amongst others, the agent for Hill and Co.) came off to us. Every one pounced

on him, to get first served. I was very sorry to find that I should be obliged to cross the desert in a van, as no donkey-chairs were to be had at Suez, as there used to be. As soon as dinner was over we bade adieu to the India steamer; and, as far as the ship was concerned, we were very glad to do so, for she was the most uncomfortable and unhealthy vessel I ever entered: every body had been ill on board.

We stepped into one of the Arab boats that came alongside; it was as curious a tub of a thing as can be conceived. The sun was so hot that I seated myself down at the bottom, there being no benches, while G. covered my head with a cloak. We were paddled along by a couple of black-eyed Bedouins, who were laughing and chattering most vociferously. They seemed very much amused with us, and their astonishment was quite ludicrous when G. uncorked a bottle of soda-water he had brought with him. When the cork popped, they started as if they had been shot, and, as soon as he had emptied the contents down

his throat, the man who was steering made a sign to look at the bottle. My husband gave it to him, and the man was so delighted he almost danced for joy. He first peeped into it, but very cautiously, as he appeared to fear its exploding; he then ventured to smell it, and next to wet his finger with a little drop that remained. He put it to his lips, evidently expecting to burn his tongue; but, not being able to satisfy his curiosity, he searched for the cork at the bottom of the boat, and the little piece of wire belonging to it, and put them all carefully away together, probably for a charm.

We had been winding amongst the sand-banks for some time, and the water had become so shallow one might have touched the bottom with one's hand. Masses of beautiful coraline were growing in every part, and shells of many descriptions were swimming about. They now hoisted a sail, which one of the men kept in the right direction by holding the corner. We went on much quicker at first, but not long, for in a few minutes the boat had grounded,

although it was flat-bottomed and drew scarcely any water. One of the men jumped out and pushed it along by main force, scraping all the time against the coral reefs. This was very slow work, and seemed to afford us but little chance of landing before dark. I felt very ill, and, although the sun was scorching hot, a cold north wind had risen, and was blowing with great violence.

At length we turned into a little channel between two sand-banks. The men tied up their clothes, and, pointing to G. to steer, they jumped out and towed us along by a strong cord; they continued this for nearly an hour, excepting when we stuck so fast they had not strength to pull us forward by the rope: during the whole time the boat was scraping over the coral.

A great number of hulks were at anchor in the roads; they formed part of the fleet that conveyed the victorious armies of Mohammed Ali, commanded by his sons Tousson and Ibrahim, and lastly by himself, against the Wahabees.

At length we came in sight of the town,

which is a most dismal-looking place. The walls and fortifications have not been repaired since the devastations committed by the French, and the houses appear ruinous and but half inhabited. The principal object from the sea is a large white-washed tomb of a sheykh.

We could not come near enough to the quay to land, the water being too shallow to float the boat; so I was carried through, *sans cérémonie*, on the back of an Arab. The landing-place was crowded by wretched-looking creatures, whose sickly countenances betrayed the unhealthiness of the place, which is subject to a constant malaria, from the vicinity of extensive salt-marshes.

We hurried on to the hotel of Messrs. Hill and Co., in the principal square. Its exterior made me tremble, for it looked more like a barn or a stable than a house; but Mohammed Ali has hitherto allowed no other asylum for English travellers: he has made no objection to their settling in Alexandria, Cairo, or any other part of his dominions, and he has even built stations for

them on the desert, but he has always evinced a jealousy and fear of the English gaining any footing at Suez, or any of the ports on the Red Sea. I believe he has at length consented to erect them an hotel, but of which, however, he is to be the sole proprietor.

When we entered the court-yard we found it filled with camels loading for the desert. Most of them were noble animals, of gigantic stature; they were all crouched on the ground, for the convenience of packing. The confusion that prevailed was quite appalling to a weary traveller like myself. All our fellow-passengers were on the alert, endeavouring to secure the best camels for themselves, and, as there were not enough to supply all, the excitement was very great. The whole yard was strewed with boxes and packages of every size and shape, some belonging to those who had just arrived by the India, and others to those who were waiting to return in her. Europeans and Arabs were all calling at the highest pitch of their voices, in various tongues.

It was with the greatest difficulty we found a passage through this motley throng, and succeeded in reaching a crazy wooden staircase which led us to the public sitting-room. This really looked very comfortable, and was nicely fitted up with tables and divans. A party of the future passengers of the India, who had been waiting at Suez for her several days, were seated very snugly at dinner; but, unfortunately for us, they had engaged all the best bed-rooms, and for a long time it appeared uncertain whether I should get one or not. However, at last I succeeded; and, wishing all our friends a pleasant night-journey across the desert for themselves and their camels, we went round a creaking gallery in quest of our dormitory.

CHAPTER IV.

Difficulties of Transit—Night-Horrors—The Plague of Flies—Passage Money—Exchange—Luggage—Camels—Camel Pack-saddles—Square at Suez—Desert Carriage—First Day in the Desert—Dead Camels—Bedouin Arabs—Desert Flowers—Wild Melon—Partridges—Larks—Eagles—Station Houses—Agate, &c.—Buckshiesh—Syce—Pilgrims' Graves—Butterflies—Moths—Breakfast—Flowers and Insects—Anecdote of a Wolf—Dinner in the Desert—Lizards—Colour of Desert Animals—Petrified Shells—Rat Holes—Vulture—Arab Coachman—Desert Night-wind—Vultures—Great Speed—Young Camels—Luggage Horses—Mule—A Bey's Hharee'm—Mirage—Young Fox—Sketch of Dining-room—Sheep—Petrified Wood—The Nile—First View of Cairo—Tombs of the Caliphs—Arab Camp.

CHAPTER IV.

June 26th.—Oh, the night of horrors I passed in this delightful hotel of Messrs. Hill and Co.! We retired to our own room as soon as we had finished the arrangements for our desert journey, which was by no means a satisfactory business, as the agent in charge of the transit appears to care very little whether his customers are pleased or not, knowing that it would be difficult for them to make themselves independent of him, as the Company has monopolised all the camels and donkeys, and they have, consequently, no choice but to pay their 12*l.* a-piece, and make up their minds to be treated as he shall think proper. We, however, made him promise that a van should be in readiness for us at half-past four in

the morning, although, as he observed, it was very likely the coachman would not be awake, the Arabs were such sleepy fellows.

At length we shut our door upon all intruders, and disposed ourselves for a good night's rest, which we much needed, after all the excitement and fatigue of the day. The room, too, with its neat white beds, promised well, and looked comfortable, contrasted with the tumble-down hovel-looking appearance of the *soi-disant* hotel. But visions of sleep were soon put to flight, by finding our solitude invaded by numerous bedfellows, who, although they occupied small space, loudly and *feelingly* made their presence known to us, the unfortunate intruders on their domain.

I was on the point of securing the curtains I have already alluded to, in order to protect myself from the innumerable musquitoes which had commenced their anti-narcotic music, when I saw upon the snow-white sheet—horrible to relate! a huge intruder: he was speedily annihilated, but, alas! he

proved only to be an *avant-courrier* of numerous others of his species, which I attacked right and left, but to no purpose; my enemies only brought fresh forces to the field, and most delighted was I to see the first dawn of morning, when I arose, more fatigued than when I went to bed, and with the cold I caught yesterday on landing much increased.

We hastened our toilet, and at length succeeded in getting our breakfast, which we ate amidst a cloud of flies that defies description; the tea was scarcely poured out before our cups were full of them. They infest Egypt periodically, and the season for them is not quite over yet. We were so much annoyed by them that we could not sit down to table. I pocketed a couple of rolls, which afterwards proved a great treat to us in the desert.

The next thing to be done was to hurry our departure. The first step towards this was to pay our passage-money, which does not include camel hire. This may be done either to Cairo, which is half the sum, or the whole way to Alexandria. We foolishly,

by the interested advice of the agent, paid the whole 24*l.*, that is, 12*l.* each, and we were thus compelled to go from Cairo to Alexandria by Mr. Hill's conveyance. Had we not done so, we might have had the choice of several, with equal comfort and less expense; and what they tell one at Suez, about having the first choice of the steamer on the Nile, &c. &c., is mere imposition, as it makes no difference whether the money be paid first or last: in short, it is only a trap to compel you to go by them. I must say I regarded the agent with great abhorrence; but, probably, his attention was less prompt in consequence of the recent death of Mr. Hill, the proprietor, so that just now there is no ostensible head to the establishment. I must mention that the sovereign is the only coin that can be exchanged for any thing approaching to its value in Egypt. We unfortunately brought some hundreds sterling in rupees, and they would only take them at Suez at the rate of 12, that is 24*s.* the pound.

We had to leave our baggage to come

on afterwards, as almost all the camels were taken by our fellow-passengers last night. Every one but ourselves determined to travel during the night, to avoid the heat of the day, and the consequence was that they spent the greater part of it in loading their camels and sending them off (which, by the by, added to my midnight evils), and daybreak found them advanced but a short way on their journey, which continued through the whole heat of the day, and was only terminated by midnight at Cairo. We, on the contrary, took two days, only travelled morning and evening, saw every thing, and escaped the heat of the day, as well as the unhealthy cold night-winds which sweep across the desert.

Just as we were on the point of starting, we had another dispute with the agent. It is in the regulations that travellers are not allowed to take luggage with them in the van, but every one *does* take his carpet-bag, &c. &c. We accordingly sent down a servant with a basket of clothes, to change, and my dressing-box, which were refused admittance; and upon remonstrating that, pro-

bably, our camels would not arrive at Cairo so soon as ourselves, and that we should be destitute of every thing, our friend offered to send the necessaries upon a light dromedary, which would keep up with us. G. was on the point of consenting, when I put in my word, and said we would not go without our things, and go they must in the van. So, after a little parleying, in they went. The light dromedary was only an excuse to add to the already exorbitant charge.

While G. was making some final arrangement, I went down to the square, where the van was waiting, to smuggle in my writing-desk, and I was almost frightened to death by the variety of strange and new objects that surrounded me. I first had to descend some wooden stairs into the court of the hotel, and then pass under a long archway into the large square. To my horror, there I encountered about thirty or forty camels, not like those I saw at Aden, but at least twice their size. Many of them were coming through the archway to the inn-yard, to be loaded with our luggage; and

as they passed me with their stately walk, and turning their long necks from side to side, uttering that peculiar gurgling sound common to them, I clung to the black servant by my side in no slight alarm.

I succeeded in threading my way through them, and reached the van, wherein I intended to take refuge; but, when I came up to it, it seemed to me such a doubtful-looking vehicle, and the access to it so difficult, that I was obliged to wait till my husband came, though still in the vicinity of the dreaded camels, which were tied in strings of from six to ten each. Every camel was connected to the one before by a cord attached to its head, and fastened to the large pack, or saddle, which those employed in carrying goods, or any kind of burden, are furnished with. These packs come down very low on each side, and completely cover the hips, to which they are meant as a protection; they are thicker at the edges and hollow in towards the centre; at the top two long poles are placed lengthways, for the better accommodation of luggage.

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I was soon surrounded by all the beggars of Suez. It is quite shocking to see how many of the lower classes are blind of at least one eye: boys and girls of twelve and thirteen years old have often quite lost their sight; chiefly, I believe, from want of cleanliness, and the innumerable flies with which they are covered. I was struck with horror at many of the miserable objects around me, several with their eyes covered with flies; they seemed almost unconscious of their presence, as they never attempted to brush them away, either from those organs or the corners of their mouths. I cannot imagine any thing more disgusting than the sight they presented: poor little children of two years' old, seated across their mothers' shoulders, had all of them three or four of these insects at the corner of each eye.

But, forgetting a moment what immediately surrounded me, I could not help being struck with the picturesqueness of the scene. It was still in the grey of the morning, and the air deliciously cool: the lofty and comparatively neglected houses of the square

cast a shadow around: here and there, beneath a verandah, sat a solitary Turk, with his loose black gown and white turban, smoking his early pipe and sipping his coffee. On the other side were some of the females of the lower class, selling doórah bread, a very coarse kind of cake, eaten by the peasants throughout Egypt. They were dressed in a loose shirt of dark-blue cotton, reaching to the calves of the legs (which were bare), and open in front, so as to expose a great part of the person. Their heads were covered with a large mantle, which, when any one passed, they held over the mouth and one side of the face, leaving only one eye visible.

In the centre of the square things were a little more bustling; troops of donkeys were passing and repassing, laden with skins of water, one hanging on each side, like those I described at Aden. Then there were troops of camels, standing and lying about in the most graceful attitudes, and their attendant Arabs, with their fine dark, bronze countenances and sparkling black eyes. Every thing added to the effect; the pea-

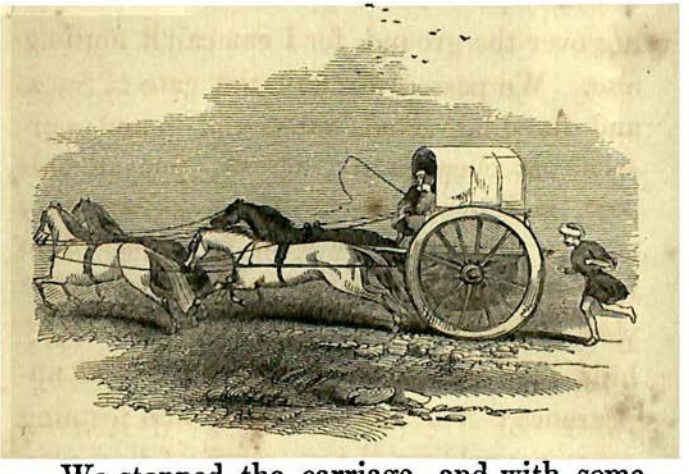
sants' dresses were picturesque; the dark-blue robe, with the red sash and white turban, seemed as if ready for the pencil of an artist. The scene was a striking one, and not the less curious from our *carriage and four* forming part of it, with me standing behind, looking and feeling as if dropt from the clouds.

But, whatever my reflections were, or might have been, I was soon called into action, by G. coming to help me into the van: no very easy performance upon first trial. But I must describe the vehicle, and then the difficulty will be better appreciated. Imagine two huge red wheels, higher than those of any gipsy cart or caravan that ever was seen, and far more substantial; above these, not slung between them, for they reach only a few inches beyond the bottom, a machine, about the size of a very small butcher's or baker's cart, is fixed, upon what are, by courtesy, called springs; this is tilted, and covered with thin cloth to keep off the heat of the sun. At each side a narrow wooden bench is fixed, on which two persons may sit; and even this

scanty allowance of room is encroached upon by the coachman's little railed seat jutting inwards, which quite makes him one of the party; at the back is a low wooden door. This completes the interior. Now for the access to it.

As I stood on the ground, the floor of the van was even with my head, and there was only one step to it, which consisted of an iron stirrup four or five feet high. Having, with the assistance of a stool and a great deal of lifting, reached it, I came to a strong iron bar jutting out; this, with an ascent of two feet more, had to be surmounted, to attain the body of the vehicle, which looked every moment as if it were going to tip back with me. At length I reached the top, G. followed, crack went the coachman's whip, and the four horses started off at a full gallop, turning round the corners of the narrow streets with frightful rapidity, threading through troops of camels and donkeys, and making all the grave old Turks and Arabs run for their lives. The jolting, and the velocity with which we went,

quite took away my breath, and almost my senses; and it was not until we reached the gate of the town, that the hardness of the seat reminded me I had left my favourite pillow behind at the hotel.



We stopped the carriage, and with some difficulty explained to the coachman what we wanted. Much to my terror, G. took the reins of the wild horses, and told him to go and fetch it. However, my fears were groundless; they were not so wild as they looked, and stood very quiet. Their harness is rather curious; the off-wheeler, which is invariably the best and strongest,

is put in the shafts of the van, while the other wheeler and the leaders have merely traces. I remarked, the whole of the way, that the near side was the easiest to sit on.

At length our coachman returned with the stray pillow, and we were once more flying over the ground, for I can call it nothing else. We passed through the gate of Suez, and its dilapidated walls, and found ourselves at once on the desert; but all this part, and nearly the whole way to Cairo, is very different from what we expected to see: instead of an endless plain of sand, the view is bounded by a low range of rocky hills, here and there assuming a bolder appearance; sometimes receding and forming coves resembling the entrance of harbours. Near Suez their elevation is so great as almost to deserve the name of mountains.

The whole face of the plain is covered with large loose stones, and the ground, with the exception of two of the centre stages, is rather rocky than sandy; the road is nothing more than a track formed by the wheels of the vans, and is carried over great

pieces of stone and rock, without any regard to the bones of unfortunate travellers. I never experienced any thing like it; I really thought I should have been driven out of my senses by the jolting, which was incessant — bump, bump, bump — without a moment to breathe. I had a dreadful cold in my head, besides being otherwise very unwell, and every jerk was like a knife cutting into my brain. This prevented me taking pleasure in any thing, and made me feel every little thing an inconvenience. But, had my health enabled me to enjoy it, nothing could have been more amusing than the whole of our journey through the desert. The very novelty of tearing across these wilds of eastern fable in a carriage and four, was sufficient excitement to make all the jolting count for nothing, not to speak of the endless objects of interest we met with. It was quite extraordinary the rate at which we went; the horses were never suffered to relax their pace a moment, and certainly the Arab coachman, who drove us the whole way, was an excellent whip.

The first thing we saw after leaving Suez was a well in the desert, where numerous camels were slaking their thirst after a long journey from Cairo, during which time they have nothing to drink. The place was strewed with the bones of these animals, who had lain down and died of fatigue and exhaustion. It is quite shocking to see the hundreds of carcasses that line the road the whole way; the flesh is soon eaten by the wolves and rats, while the bones are left to bleach in the sun. The water of this well, like all those in the desert, is brackish; it is built round with a wall, and has a small mosque standing close to it, for the use of the pilgrims. I believe there are numbers of wells in different parts of the desert, known only to the Bedouin Arabs, who keep them carefully concealed.

We met several of this warlike tribe, sometimes on camels and sometimes on horses; they were all armed with spears, pistols, guns, and swords, and looking so fierce, that we were forcibly reminded it was only through fear of the redoubted Mohammed

Ali that we were thus allowed to tread the sands of their desert with impunity. Their complexion is nearly black; they have generally fine open countenances and slender figures, but shew great strength of limb. Although plunderers by profession, they may be trusted with untold gold. All the luggage sent across the desert is placed entirely under their care, and not the smallest article is ever found missing. None of our baggage happened to have locks, and yet every part of it came safe and untouched.

Far from finding the soil totally barren, as I always understood it to be, we met with a variety of beautiful plants, many of them in full bloom, and the flowers exquisite both in tint and form. In most instances they had a very strong perfume, too powerful to be agreeable. We made the syce gather us a large desert nosegay, but they soon faded, and there was only one flower sufficiently alive to have its picture taken, by the time we reached our first resting-place.

The ground was covered in many places by a creeping plant which I have called the

wild melon, as I do not know its true name: the fruit, which is very abundant, is about the size of a large apple, and the outer skin is similar to a green water-melon. It is very hard. I cut one open and found it filled with minute black seeds. Our Arab coachman told us it was poisonous.

Every now and then a large covey of partridges crossed our path. We must have seen hundreds of them in the course of the day, and thousands of larks. I cannot think where they could have found food. Several other birds, whose names we did not know, were also constantly to be met with; and often on the pinnacle of some little rock we saw a stately eagle watching for its prey.

It was half-past seven before we reached No. 7 station-house, where we were to change horses; and delighted I was to stop, for my poor head was in an agony. There are eight of these station-houses in the desert, built by Mohammed Ali for the convenience of travellers. They are under the direction of Hill and Co., who keep relays

of horses at each, and exact fees from all who make use of them. They are counted from Cairo. Nos. 1, 3, 5, and 7, are merely stables for horses, while Nos. 2, 4, and 6, have rooms, and are furnished with provisions for travellers. No. 8 station-house is at Suez.

We got out of the van to rest ourselves from the cramped position in which we had been sitting, and took shelter under the shadow of the building, as there was no place to go into, and the stable was full of horses. We picked up several pebbles that looked like agates: numbers of these, with specimens of cornelian, are to be found in the desert.

We were soon *en route* again. As we resumed our seats we were loudly importuned by the syce or groom, who had accompanied us from Suez, for "buckshiesh," the Arab word for a present, and which is the first and last word one hears in Egypt, for it is an unceasing petition. As what we had paid for our journey was quite suffi-

cient to include buckshiesh, we refused, both in this instance and every time we changed horses.

The syce ran before us generally the whole stage, and always kept up, which was quite surprising, considering the pace we were going; we changed them at every station, as each remained with his own horses. Not so the harness; we used the same the whole journey: whether or not it fitted the horses, appeared never to enter into consideration; and the consequence was, that the poor animals' backs and shoulders were often quite raw.

We had come twelve miles to No. 7, and had nearly thirteen more to travel before we could arrive at No. 6 station, where we intended to spend the heat of the day. Although still early, the rays of the sun striking upon the sandy plains around us made the heat and glow almost intolerable, and the jolting was worse than before.

We met several troops of camels laden with panniers full of fowls going to Suez; every necessary of life is obliged to be

brought there over the desert from the Delta, even drinking water from the Nile, as all the wells are brackish. The carcasses of çamels were more numerous than ever, many with flesh still remaining.

Every now and then we passed a little mound of sand and stones, marking some pilgrim's grave. Many of these poor creatures partly perform the last rites for themselves. When they feel their end approaching they choose some little hollow to lie down in, and, as long as they have strength to do so, gather the loose stones and sand around them, leaving the face alone uncovered, that they may breathe their last,—trusting to some charitable traveller to finish the work they have begun.

We still saw from time to time several beautiful flowers, and thousands of brilliantly coloured butterflies sporting amongst them; many flew into the van, but we had left our net behind us and could not catch them. We also saw quantities of moths during the whole journey.

The country is not nearly so level at this

part; the whole plain undulates more or less. We ascended and descended many small hills, and wound round several. Hitherto we had followed one direct line. Once, in turning round the angle of a rock, we came close upon three large eagles, perched at a very short distance from us.

At length we reached the station-house No. 6. We did not see it till we came close upon it; but in general the ground is so level they may be seen almost from one to another, although from twelve to sixteen miles apart.

No. 6 stands in a sandy plain without a blade of vegetation near it, and the glare of its whitewashed walls was any thing but inviting to us, sighing as we were for a little shade. However, I made up my mind that the *interior* would be very comfortable, as I had heard so much of the good fare and excellent arrangement of these desert inns: I therefore entered with visions of delicious fruit and cool Nile water; but we were fated to be disappointed. It was only nine o'clock, therefore the first thing we did was

to order breakfast immediately, and then began to look about us.

The house consisted of two chambers, a kitchen, and servants' room, and a large public saloon, which occupied the whole of one end, and completed a little centre court. Into the latter room we went. Three sides of it were furnished with divans; there was a long table in the centre, several chairs, and a glass window at each end; but as neither of them would open, the only air admitted into the room was through the door we came in at, and the glare was dreadful.

But this was not the worst part. The flies were in such myriads as to defy description. The table, walls, ceiling, and floor, literally swarmed with them. I was dreadfully tired and exhausted by the journey, and laid myself down immediately, in the cleanest looking corner of the divan; but I was not allowed to remain in peace. I had scarcely taken up my position before I was covered with flies from head to foot. My eyes were very weak from the cold in my head, and they crawled into them in such a

dreadful manner, that I began to be afraid I should be like the poor creatures I saw in the morning. Added to these, thousands of musquitoes were buzzing around me, and making havoc of my face, hands, and feet. The intense heat, and the fever of my cold, added to the irritation; and I truly felt undergoing an Egyptian plague.

G. at length procured me a little peace, by covering me with my muslin musquito sheet, and I tied my veil over my head and face, and fastened the string round my throat; but every time I raised my handkerchief I was sure to let in a dozen flies at least.

At length the breakfast was placed on the table. It was absolutely difficult to know what the dishes contained, as they looked full of heaps of flies. However, by dint of fanning and blowing, G. discovered a plate of eggs, a dish of rice, and another of very bad curry; no fruits, and only a single bottle of good water, was to be had, although they are promised in the printed papers hung round the room.

No doubt it is wonderful that things are to be found as good and comfortable as they are, or even to be found at all, in this desert of Arabia, when it is taken into consideration that every single article and every drop of water is brought on camels from Cairo. But we had heard the station-houses so much praised, and been told that we should be feasted, if we wished, on "*turkey, ham, and champagne,*" that the falling off quite disappointed us. However, we had very good tea, and excellent goat's milk, of which one can have as much as one likes throughout the desert. No bread is given, but, in lieu of it, we were treated with great round biscuits, larger, thicker, and harder than any sea-biscuits that were ever invented, and tasting considerably of tar.

Breakfast being on the table, the next thing to consider was how we should eat it, as the flies were continually crawling round the corners of our mouths, and whenever we opened them for a mouthful of food, they also claimed and obtained admittance. I dared not venture out of my sheet, but took

the plate on my knee, and watched my opportunity to raise a corner of my veil and introduce a spoonful of rice. But I soon got tired of combating my enemy, and, as the viands were not very enticing, and my appetite not very keen, I retreated within my encampment. This, however, soon became so suffocatingly hot as not to be endured any longer.

My husband soon hit upon a very good expedient; he took me into one of the bed rooms, let down the musquito curtains, and beat out all the flies. He then emancipated me from my veil, I got into the bed, and he tucked the curtains securely round, leaving me in this *boudoir charmant* to spend the remainder of the day.

Escaped from one enemy, I was now assailed by another in the shape of fleas. They annoyed me a good deal, but, as I was dressed and outside the bed, they did not do much execution; and in a little time, to my great relief, I fell asleep, and did not wake till G. came to tell me dinner was ready. He had been employing

himself very profitably in drawing the flower that had survived in our desert bouquet, and he placed upon it a horrid yellow and black insect he found outside the curtains of my bed when I was asleep. The flies would not let him draw in the room, so he sat under the shadow of the building in the little court-yard.

When he was tired of drawing he went to the door of the house to look about him. Presently he saw something at a great distance coming over the plain; all the dogs of the station began to bark violently, and ran out. It proved to be a large wolf, which, as the dogs approached, shortened its pace and then stopped, putting its tail between its legs. The dogs did the same, but the next moment summoned courage enough to run forward, barking loudly. Upon this the wolf turned round ready to run away, but the dogs were too far from the house to consider themselves protected by their masters, so shewed no further desire to proceed, but, on the contrary, began to retire; the wolf now advanced nearer and nearer, with a stealthy

pace, until it came close to the side of the house.

G. ran round the other way, to see what was its object in venturing so near the abode of man. He found it discussing the remains of a camel which had died two or three days before; it appeared quite regardless of the dogs, which kept at a respectful distance, and continued its meal, although G. approached very near. At last he took up a large stone, which he threw at it. The wolf looked up for a few minutes, and then resumed the repast; but a second stone made it slowly retire. The dogs now gained courage, and resumed the offensive, while the enemy hastily retreated, and, at length, laid quietly down on the ground. The dogs ran home, and G. left it to finish its meal if it chose.

Several camels came to the inn, laden with skins full of brackish water for the horses, but the poor animals were not allowed to taste a drop themselves, although they were present while the horses were greedily swallowing it.

We asked the man of the inn what had occasioned the death of the animal upon

which the wolf was feasting. He said it was a very fine and valuable camel, worth about 50*l.*; it had been constantly employed to bring water from Suez day after day, and had died of overwork a few days before. This is the fate of thousands of these invaluable animals; it is shocking to see how overloaded they often are, and how cruelly used. They are the most patient, docile creatures imaginable, and will work to the last extremity. The groaning noise they make when carrying too heavy a load is quite heart-rending to hear.

I was afraid of leaving my curtained fortress, so the table was brought close to my bed, and I ate my dinner there; which was not more savoury or inviting than the breakfast. As we could get no good water, we called for a bottle of claret, which proved sour; we then tried a bottle of marsala, not much better.

By half-past four we were once more on our road. The afternoon sun was scorching hot, and it was impossible to prevent it from shining into the front of the van, as the cur-

tains would not fasten. When we had gone nearly a mile, I remembered I had left my unfortunate pillow behind again. We dispatched the syce in quest of it, who thus gained a shilling as buckshiesh. He was a long time gone, during which G. got out and explored. He chased several lizards, and brought one to the carriage to shew me. It was of quite a different shape from any we had seen before, and of a light stone colour, like that of the desert, from which, when motionless, it is difficult to distinguish them. This peculiarity we observed in all the animals we met with. The wolf was of nearly the same hue, and even the larks partook of it.

He saw several beautiful flowers, different from those of the morning, and gaudy butterflies fluttering amongst them. The flowers faded, but G., even in this short time, made a collection of a great many different seeds; some had a very strong, pungent smell, so powerful that I could scarcely bear it when he came into the van again.

The most interesting specimens he found

were several petrified shells. They are to be met with all over the desert, and in great variety. Those in question appeared to have been snail-shells; many of them were attached to a piece of stick, as naturally as if the snails were still in them. Every here and there we saw large blocks of petrified wood lying upon the sand. In fact, all seems to turn to stone in this truly "Arabia Petræa," whether by the action of the sun upon peculiar properties in the sand, or from other cause, I know not; but I suppose the learned could assign, or already have assigned, a reason.

My headach was so bad during the remainder of this day's journey that I could look at nothing, and only deplore the incessant jolting, which left me not a moment of ease.

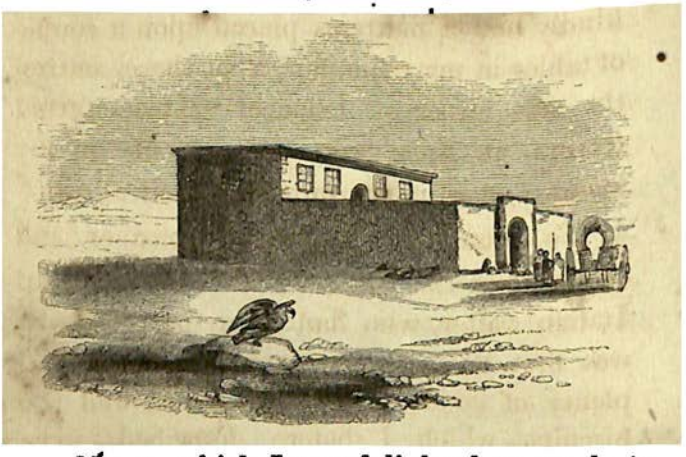
At the end of twelve miles we changed horses at station-house No. 5, and G. made an exact sketch of it; it is precisely similar to No. 7, and all the other stable station-houses on the road. The next was a stage of fourteen miles. The hills on each side are lower in

this part, and the plain is wider and more sandy. The whole face of the country is covered with innumerable rat-holes. I observed, also, several low, shrubby-looking trees, but I do not know of what nature.

We passed a small mosque-looking building, the tomb, I believe, of an Arab sheykh. No. 4 station-house was in sight several miles before we reached it, and, at the same time, the only real tree on the desert.

This is looked upon with a great deal of veneration. It grows like a yew-tree, but is not one. The trunk divides at the top into two superior branches. It may be seen for miles round, and although any where else it would belong to the Lilliputian order of trees, the singularity of its position entitles it to particular notice. Just before reaching the inn we passed a vulture perched on a large

stone; it was of a dirty white colour, with a few black feathers in its wings.



No. 4, which I was delighted to reach, is the half-way house, and, consequently, the best on the desert. It is much larger than any of the others, and has a long row of bed-rooms and two public saloons. In front is a walled court-yard, in which were turkeys, geese, sheep, and goats, for the use of travellers. There is also a large tent, very near the station-house.

We had to go up a steep flight of steps, as all the apartments are built over the stables. There was only one bed in each room,

and, as the doors were too narrow to admit the introduction of another, my husband kindly had a mattrass placed upon a couple of tables in my room, and slept there, setting the musquitoes at defiance. My nocturnal terrors at Suez were too recent in my memory to allow me to trust myself alone.

We found this inn much cleaner and cooler than the last; there was a very civil Italian waiter, who had been there since it was first built, seven years ago. We had plenty of good water for our tea, and the biscuits, which I before described, were steeped in it, in order to render eating them within the range of possibility. While we were at tea, our Arab coachman sent up word by the waiter, "That he had observed the lady looked very tired, and, therefore, advised us to get to the end of our journey as quickly as possible; that we had better start in two hours, as the moon was very bright, and that he would take us into Cairo by breakfast-time in the morning." I was much obliged to him for his kind consideration, but as I suspected that part of it

was in order that the passengers waiting at Cairo to go by the India steamer should be conveyed across the desert by himself, we declined his offer, and prepared ourselves for a night's rest.

July 27th.—Notwithstanding my cold, I passed a much better night on the desert than at Suez, and there were not nearly so many intruders. We were up by day-break, while the bitter night-wind was still sweeping over the desert, and we congratulated ourselves that we had been protected from it. The morning haze had all the appearance of a wet fog.

I cannot describe the effect of the first stage of our journey this morning. The character of the scenery was different from what it had hitherto been; we had lost sight of the chains of hills, and all around appeared an endless and unbroken tract of desert. Fortunately for my poor head the ground was very good, and much freer from stones. But to estimate the pace we went would be impossible. The coachman first desired the syce to get up behind, and then gave the reins

to his horses; they started immediately at full gallop, and kept it up nearly the whole way. It seemed as if we were flying across the plain; it was still early morning, and the cool air appeared to exhilarate the horses and give them additional strength. Had I felt inclined to be frightened, I certainly had good reason for it, but I was so ill that I was only too glad to get over the ground.

We swept by immense herds of camels, belonging to the Bedouin Arabs, many with their young ones by their sides. The young camel is generally of a light brown colour, with a curly coat, and, I should say, smaller in proportion than the young horse.

Presently we passed the camels laden with our own and fellow-passengers' luggage; they had overtaken us in the night. A negro, servant to one of the French passengers, rode with them. I observed, with astonishment, one camel carrying our two large cases, each containing half a chest of drawers. One was slung on either side, and the noble animal was marching on with

its own peculiar, graceful stride, as if it scarcely felt their weight.

Having met four return horses, we stopped, and the coachman selecting one he liked better than one of those in the van, changed it. Just as we were starting again the harness broke; this was soon rectified, and we resumed our former pace, which was seldom slackened until we arrived at station No. 3, a distance of fifteen miles.

G. walked on while they were changing horses, over a little hill in front, and desired me to pick him up. As soon as he was gone, the coachman tied a horse to each wheel and left the others to stray about, while he went into the stable to amuse himself, and I was left in the van alone with these half-wild horses. Presently, one of those tied to the wheel began to kick, and another to roll. I expected every moment the van would be upset by a conspiracy of the eight horses, who were thus left to their own inventions. However, my cries were of very little use in bringing the people to my rescue, and it was not until G.,

surprised at the long delay, appeared, at the top of the hill, shouting for us to come on, that the coachman began to stir himself.

We had a mule as one of the wheelers, which the coachman kept continually beating with a short whip he had on purpose, in addition to his long one. The road was very hilly and rough; consequently we went at a much more moderate pace than before.

Half way we met rather an interesting caravan; it consisted of the family of some wealthy Bey, going on a pilgrimage to Jiddah and Mek'keh. There must have been about twenty or thirty camels. Those carrying the Bey himself and his hharee'm had superb trappings. The ladies, who were all closely veiled, were seated in a kind of large open box, hung on each side as panniers; there were red silk embroidered curtains hung around, like those on a bedstead, and an awning over all. The Bey was smoking his splendid pipe; and behind came innumerable slaves with provisions.

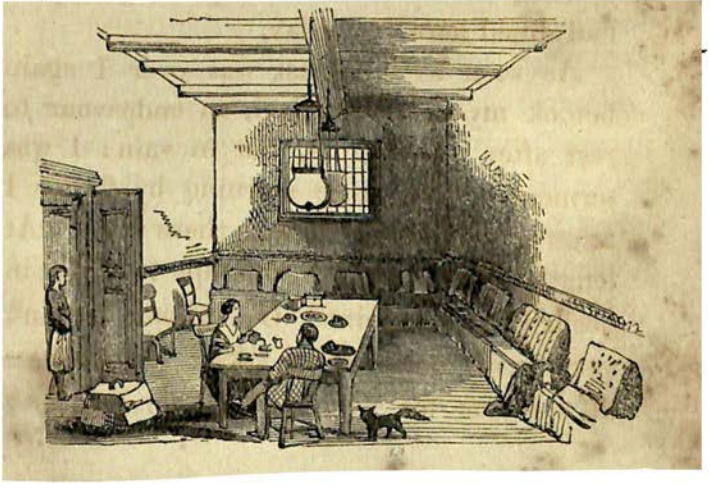
We several times witnessed the phenomenon of the mirage, so often described by

travellers, and so cruelly deceptive to the weary and thirsty pilgrim. Sometimes it assumed the appearance of a distant harbour, at others of an inland lake, reflecting the surrounding objects on its surface. This appeared a very long stage (thirteen miles). The road was rising and descending constantly over little hillocks, with deep sand between, and followed a winding course. We reached No. 2 station-house a little past nine o'clock. It is exactly like No. 6, but with fewer flies and better fare; at least we thought so, in consequence of having for breakfast a very nice leg of cold mutton, left by some fellow-passengers, who had dined here yesterday.

As soon as breakfast was over I again betook myself to the bed, to endeavour to rest after my fatigues, but in vain: I was tormented the whole morning by fleas. I never saw such myriads as there were. At length I gave up the attempt to sleep in despair, and rejoined G., whom I found very busily engaged in taking the likeness of a young fox which had been caught a

few days before on the desert, and was now confined in a small wooden cage. All the Arab servants of the inn were gathered round him, peeping in with the greatest curiosity at the door at which he was sitting. The fox was of the same colour as all the animals we had met with on the desert.

We laid pillows on the long dining-table, and laid down there, but the flies would not leave us in peace; so we gave up all thoughts of resting ourselves. I beguiled the time by feeding and playing with a beautiful black Persian cat, and G. with his pencil, which is an endless source of pleasure and amusement. He made a sketch



of the interior of the room we were sitting in, with both of us at breakfast.

Several troops of camels passed during the day; one came very near the house, with an Arab on his back, when G. let the door bang, and it started as if it were shot, and ran away, nearly overthrowing the man.

Presently a large herd passed, belonging to the Bedouin Arabs; G. repeated the experiment, and immediately they were scattered all over the plain, running and scampering in all directions; one camel threw its load off and fell down. The men had great difficulty in collecting and quieting them, to proceed on their journey.

While I was looking out of the window to see our baggage come up, I was very much amused by observing the Negro servant I spoke of before, appear very anxious to stop the light camel he was riding on, in order to take some refreshment at the station-house. Not so the animal, who, immediately he tried to turn its head towards the inn, plunged into the very centre of the

troop, much to the discomfiture of the poor man, who still kept his seat, notwithstanding the contusions his legs must have suffered in contact with the boxes and packing-cases among which they were jammed. The camel carried the day; and, some time afterwards, I saw the man returning on foot for his cup of coffee, leaving the unruly beast to pursue his road with his companions.

We dined on the remains of the leg of mutton, and again started on our journey. Just as I was getting into the van, we saw a beautiful shaggy black sheep, different from any we had seen before.

The road now was rougher than ever; it often ran over ridges of rock just appearing above the sand; the jolting and shaking was almost unbearable. Thirteen miles brought us to No. 1 station. From hence to Cairo the blocks of petrified wood were larger and more plentiful; many entire trunks of trees lying by the road-side, shewed that the whole of this region must once have been a forest. The desert undulated every where like the waves of

the sea, but we found our van cut through them by no means smoothly, and in a manner quite incompatible with any maritime illusions.

After we had left No. 1 about a mile behind, we saw a silvery stream winding in the horizon; it was the glorious Nile, the lustre of whose course was undimmed, although every other object was shrouded in a mist of distance. As we drew nearer, the groves and cultivated plains upon its banks became visible, and afforded a delightful contrast to the surrounding desert.

We drew nearer and nearer, and every moment the scene became more and more beautiful. I could not look upon it without conjuring up in my mind the tales of ancient glory, of warlike deeds, and, above all, of Scripture interest, that derive their origin from Egypt and her mighty river. I could scarcely fancy that I was really about to enter the scenes which, from childhood upwards, I had always regarded with wonder and curiosity, more than almost any other spot on the globe.

At length we came in sight of a forest of domes and minarets, and Grand Cairo was before us, with the stupendous Pyramids in the distance. We had still several miles to go, and we rattled on in better spirits now the goal was before us.

On the confines of the desert we passed several magnificent mosques, I believe the "tombs of the caliphs."

The road then ran for about a mile through a large extent of ground, covered with little heaps and squares of brick building. It is the encampment of the Bedouin Arabs, who come once or twice a-year to Cairo to purchase grain, &c., but are not allowed to dwell within the walls; one part is allotted for their horses, and is built over with little brick mangers to hold their forage. They were now uninhabited. Beyond is the Arab burial-ground.

We next entered what may be properly called the outskirts of Cairo. We were constantly passing between walled gardens, highly cultivated, some filled with magnificent specimens of the cactus, or prickly

pear, in full fruit; many with orange and olive-trees.

Most of the walls were surmounted by a row of pillars interlaced with vines; flowering trees and shrubs were to be seen in every direction, amongst them the graceful laburnum, in full bloom. All seemed redolent of beauty and abundance, and was a delightful relief to the eye after the dreary tract we had just traversed.

The driver guided his horses very skilfully through the narrow lanes, and round the sharp angles, although he still kept them at full speed. Each moment we came in sight of something new; crowds of peasants of both sexes were returning from their work; the women in their long blue robes and veiled faces formed beautiful groups, many of them bearing large earthenware vases of water on their heads, of classical and ornamental shapes; the men, with their large and many-coloured turbans, some sitting cross-legged, smoking their pipes, others trotting along on richly-caparisoned donkeys and mules, with here and there a

spirited little Arab horse, with velvet housings, curvetting and prancing, impatient of restraint.

All looked like so many beautiful pictures in which colour and form were admirably combined, only wanting a frame to complete the illusion. The tints were such as would have delighted the eye of a painter. Groves and scattered trees of the date-palm were constantly to be seen, giving an oriental character to the landscape.

At length we entered the gate of the city, and found ourselves in the great square of Cairo. The lofty overhanging houses, with their ornamental wooden lattices, through which many bright eyes were peeping, the crowds of equestrian and foot passengers, each in some costume new to my inexperienced eye, and, above all, the Egyptian ladies, riding cross-legged on donkeys, with their flowing black robes and portly figures, crowded on my attention.

These sights, and many others, produced such a whirl in my head of wonder and amusement, that description is impossible,

and I must reserve detail for a nearer and more leisurely survey of one of the most original and curious cities in the world.

We left the square and entered a narrow lane, which we afterwards found to be the widest thoroughfare in the town. We were jostled by men, camels, and donkeys, on all sides. Presently we heard a shout, and, on looking behind, we saw Mr. Jackson and Mr. Silver, our fellow-passengers, galloping along after us, each mounted on a donkey. We were very glad to meet again; a familiar face in a strange land is always welcome.

Our carriage stopped at the entrance of the street where the Great Eastern hotel is situated, as it was far too narrow to admit of its passing, being scarcely wide enough to allow of three persons walking abreast. We went immediately to the hotel, where, in the large public dining-room, we met all our friends of the India assembled. Upon comparing notes we found that we had accomplished the actual journey two hours quicker than any of them. They were just going to dinner.

The house was full, so we were given a secondary apartment, with a promise of a better in the morning. Although we did not like the appearance at first, we found it, upon the whole, tolerably comfortable; and when the door was shut, and I looked around, there was an air of antiquity and mystery about it that harmonised well with the restless feeling of curiosity and excitement I had felt ever since entering the city.

The ceiling, which was painted in different colours, now faded by age, was raised in the centre, with windows round it, by which alone light was admitted into the room. On one side was a large curtain, concealing a narrow passage, and, on the other, above the door, was a large unglazed window, ornamented with carved wooden lattice-work, and looking only upon a blank wall a few inches from it. There were some old Scripture pieces, painted in oil, hung round the room.

We had scarcely retired to rest, when an extraordinary colloquy began in Arabic; the voices sounded as loud as if in the

room, but they came from behind the curtain. It appeared like a dispute between a man and woman; the first voice was very gruff, and the second the shrillest I ever heard: they seemed to be screaming to each other from one end of the street to the other. They completely prevented our sleeping for above an hour, and I was beginning to speculate whether they would continue quarrelling all night, when exhausted nature overcame my oral faculties, and I fell asleep.

CHAPTER V.

Turkish Bath, or Hhammam — Resolutions — Pasha's Stud—Water Melon — Signet Ring of King Cheops —Donkey Chair — Cairo Donkeys — Dragoman — Grand Cairo — Streets of Cairo — Shops — Men's Dress—Women—Equestrians — Citadel — Massacre of the Memlooks—Memlook leap—Pasha's Palace—View of Cairo—Heliopolis—View of the Pyramids—Memphis — Pyramids of Sakara — Sunset — Palace — Terrace and Ramparts — Joseph's Well — New Mosque of Alabaster — Riotous Crowd — Mosque of Sultan Hassan.

CHAPTER V.

July 28th.—The first object I saw when I awoke this morning, was my husband preparing to go to a Turkish bath, previous to entering upon his Cairo campaign. On his return he gave me such a charming account of it that I was also anxious to try a Hhammam; but I was not well enough to accomplish such a freak, and was therefore obliged to content myself with his description.

There are sixty or seventy public baths in Cairo, and they are ornamented exteriorly in a similar manner to the mosques. During the time they are being used by women, a piece of linen is hung up over the doorway, to warn men not to enter.

But to return to G. He first entered a room paved with white marble, with a

fountain playing in the centre, and large mattrasses raised above the ground on each side, called leewa'n. The ceiling consisted of a number of small domes, which admitted the light. From these, numerous towels were hanging up to dry.

Here he was stopped, and a man came who undressed him, and wrapped him up in a sheet; he was then conducted through another apartment precisely similar to the first, into a small room, paved with mosaic, of different coloured tiles; half of it was occupied by the bath, a reservoir of warm water, which was constantly replenished by a small fountain. The whole atmosphere was strongly impregnated with steam.

The mookey'yisa'tee, or bathing-man, made him sit down, and proceeded to shampoo him; pulled his arms, and not only made all his joints, but his neck, crack twice, by turning his head round. He then desired him to go into the bath, and when he had done so, and was again seated on the floor, he brought a basin of liquid soap, and lathered him all

over with it, — using "leef" (fibres of a palm-tree) for this purpose, in the same way as a sponge.

He then was dipped a second time in the bath, on emerging from which he was covered with several napkins, and having resumed a pair of wooden clogs, with which he was furnished on entering, he returned to the first apartment, where a mattrass was spread for him to lie down, and being well enveloped in napkins, he was left to cool.

During this time a cup of coffee was brought to him, and he was offered a pipe. As soon as the perspiration began to pass off, the dresser came and assisted him on with all his clothes, and after paying four piastres* he was allowed to depart.

Breakfast being over, G. sallied out again, but I resisted the temptation, as I determined to remain at home until my cold

* The ckirsh, or Egyptian piastre, is equivalent to twopence-halfpenny of English money. The khey-ree'yeh, a very small thin gold coin, much in use, is worth four piastres, or ninepence-halfpenny.

was well; time, however, will shew how I kept my resolution.

I took possession of another room, and endeavoured to write my journal, but in vain; my mind was *distrait*, and nothing but visions of Cairo streets could arrest my thoughts; so I remained idle till my husband returned; and when he did, he gave me such a confused, and yet such an exciting, account of all he had seen, that my good resolutions faded away, and I resolved, at all events, to go out in the evening, and judge for myself.

Amongst other things, G. had been to see one of Mohammed Ali's studs; the best, however, is near his country palace at Shoobra.

To wile away the time, we sent our Greek servant Carlos to purchase a water-melon, as I had never tasted one. He soon returned with one that I thought enormous, but I have seen some far larger since; as it was, it was almost too heavy for one man to carry. The rind was of a light green colour, and quite smooth: some of them are of a very dark green and rough.

G. proceeded to cut out some gigantic slices, upon which we feasted; the inside was of the most delicate pink, becoming white towards the rind, not partaking of the melon flavour, but rather approaching that of the cucumber. It was deliciously cold, juicy, and refreshing. The hollow in the centre was filled with a rose-coloured juice, of which we took two or three tumblers full, mixed with a little white sugar, and found it very agreeable. There was an immense quantity of large black seeds in it; those of the dark-green water-melon are white. The flavour of the former is by far the finest.

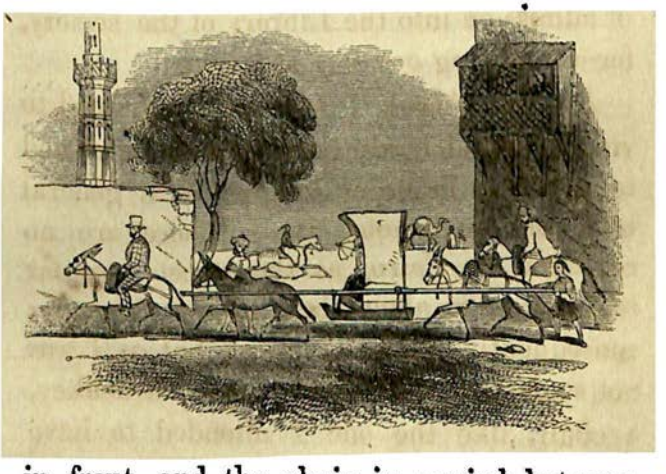
After we had finished our repast, we adjourned to the public room, where, to our annoyance, we found an early dinner was just prepared: of which we were obliged to partake, notwithstanding that the fruit had far from increased our appetite.

The English medical man of Cairo, Dr. Abbott, was at the table; we had brought a letter of introduction to him from Dr. and Mrs. Malcolmson at Aden. He has been collecting several antiquities for the new

Egyptian Society just formed. He wore on his finger a very curious ring, supposed to be the signet of Cheops, the presumptive founder of the Great Pyramid. It is of the purest gold, and very massive; the seal part is square, and engraved with hieroglyphics. His Egyptian majesty must have had a small finger, for it would not go on that of any of the gentlemen present, excepting Dr. Abbott's, and it only just fitted my third finger. Dr. Abbott gave us a ticket of admission into the Library of the society, for use during our stay at Cairo.

At four o'clock I was ready equipped to visit the citadel, whither we had determined to go first, in order to give us a general idea of the whole city. There are no carriages in Cairo, as the streets are far too narrow to allow them to pass through; consequently every one rides; but as I was not strong enough even to mount a donkey, a chair, like the one I intended to have crossed the desert in, was prepared for me. It is the most curious conveyance possible, and I must give a full description of it.

The chair has a framework fixed over it, which is covered above, behind, and on both sides, with sail-cloth. It is fixed on a huge wooden tray, like a dinner tray, which projects some way in front for the feet. A long pole is fastened on each side of this, extending a considerable way in front and behind. Near both ends a loose cord connects the two poles; these are slung over the saddles of two donkeys, for which the poles form shafts. One animal is behind, and the other



in front, and the chair is carried between them, exactly in the same way in which men carry a sedan-chair. When they walk well

together the motion is very easy; so is the canter or gallop when one can nerve one's self to it; but the trot is indescribable.

As soon as I was seated, we started. My husband, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Silver, and Captain Waring, were mounted on donkeys. The Cairo donkey deserves a place in zoology to itself, for it is different from any other of its species. It is distinguished not so much for its size (although larger than those common in England), as by its docility and strength. The weight they will carry, and the pace they go, are extraordinary; they walk, trot, and canter, as regularly as a horse: most have their coats entirely or partially shorn. The saddles they carry are very large, and stuffed quite soft; the pommel rising high in front. They are generally of a very gay colour, and furnished with bridles, covered with red carpet, and a pair of fantastic iron stirrups. There is always a donkey-boy for each, who drives his customers forward like a bale of goods.

Our cavalcade was increased by each

gentleman being attended by his dragoman, or *laquais-de-place*, all mounted likewise on donkeys, and riding in a body in front, to clear the way. The impertinence of these fellows is beyond belief; they say just what they please to their masters, who they know could not well do without them. Most of them are Arabs; we were fortunate in engaging a Greek, as we could put a little curb upon him.

Some of the scenes between an old East Indian colonel and his servant were very amusing. He had been accustomed all his life to look upon domestics almost as slaves, and although he was perfectly helpless without him, could ill brook the ready tongue of his Arab menial.

But I have made so many digressions I never shall get to the point of my story. The fact is, I do not know how to begin, I saw so much that will lose by descriptions such as mine. It requires a writer as ready and original with his pen as Hogarth with his pencil, to give a proper account.

As soon as we had turned out of the lane

in which the hotel stands, we found ourselves in the grand street of Cairo, which was thronged, as it always is, and affording abundant specimens of the varied inhabitants of the Egyptian capital. Armenians, Turks, Copts, Arabs, and Franks, were all jostling together in perfect harmony. Good humour is a very necessary quality in this crowded city, where no one thinks it necessary to beg your pardon after knocking you down. I felt quite distracted, and my breath almost suspended, when the donkey-man made my donkeys strike into a gallop, and force a way for themselves through the dense mass.

First I came in contact with a long string of camels, stalking along with their heads high up in the air, apparently disdainful of such pigmy creatures as us, and their spreading burdens filling up nearly the whole width of the street. I screamed as I saw my chair about to be precipitated into this moving mass, but in vain; onward I was carried, and to my inexpressible relief I found myself in a few seconds safely

through, only having received some unceremonious jolts against the neighbouring wall.

I had scarcely congratulated myself upon my escape, when I received a charge of forty or fifty donkeys and horses, driven headlong down the street, loaded with skins of water, hanging on each side. They were kicking and plunging in every direction; but, being unharmed, I began at last to partake of the feeling of security which seemed to pervade every one else.

It is quite astonishing that there are not more accidents. Very often the shafts of my donkey-chair ran forcibly against the legs of some unfortunate Turk who happened to be passing, and would nearly precipitate him into a vegetable stall; but neither he nor the market-women whose baskets were upset, appeared the least to care about it.

When I had recovered my senses sufficiently to look about me, I was struck with the novelty of every thing I saw. The street was in many places entirely covered over with rafters and wood-work, and in the

parts that were not so covered, the houses themselves afforded a shade by their overhanging gables. Every floor projects two or three feet beyond the one below it, and the windows looking into the street are formed of close wooden lattice-work, so as to screen the inmates without excluding the air.

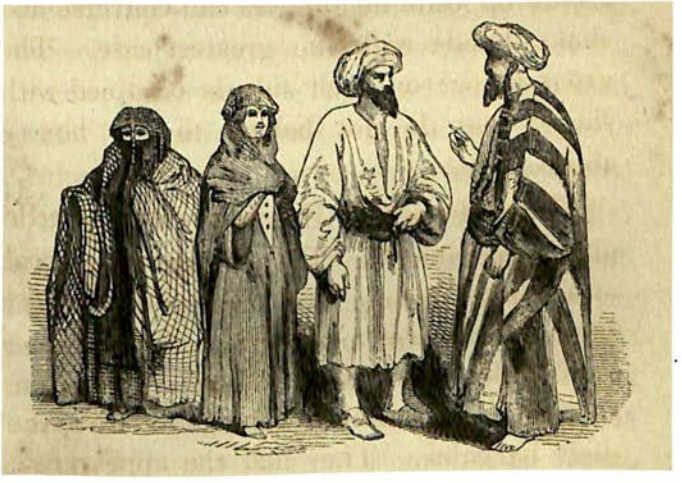
On the upper floors, even in the principal street, opposite neighbours can converse and shake hands with the greatest ease. The ground floor on each side is occupied with shops, that do not belong to the houses above them.

These shops are the most curious little places imaginable. They consist in general of a square recess, about six or seven feet high, and three or four in width, with a raised mus'-tub'-ah, or seat, in front, where the shopman and customer sit together to make their bargains. They had the appearance, with all their merchandise packed closely together in them, of boxes turned on their sides, with their lids off.

Those of the same trade generally congregate together: in one place we saw

nothing but hardware, in another, the workers in copper, &c. &c.

The dresses of both the higher and lower classes add much to the picturesqueness of the scene. The head-dress is the distinguishing mark of the different sects. They wear next the head a close-fitting white cotton cap; then one of red cloth, with a



large tassel of dark-blue silk at the crown; this is called the turboo'sh. The higher classes seldom wear any thing but the turboo'sh, except in cold weather, but the lower orders are seldom seen without the more

ancient turban wound round the cap. That of the true Moos'lim Egyptians is of white muslin; the descendants of the prophet, or shereefs, wear those of sacred green; while the Copts and Jews are distinguished by black.

Their flowing robes, full trousers, yellow shoes, and thick girdle, generally consisting of a cashmere or some gaudy coloured scarf, twisted several times round the waist, have a very pretty effect; and their flowing beards give them all a venerable appearance. The upper classes wear full cloth trousers, and coats to match, often beautifully embroidered. Their shirts are plaited and gaged in a fanciful manner, and their leggings, or white gaiters, are the same.

There were full as many women as men in the street, but I shall reserve the description of their costume till I have examined it more minutely. They appeared fully as curious to catch a glimpse of the Frank lady as I was to see them. Numbers pressed through the lattice-work of their windows, and retired screaming when they saw the party of gentlemen fol-

lowing me, who, of course, rode staring up at them.

We met numbers of ladies on donkeys, evidently enjoying the curiosity and admiration excited by their large sparkling black eyes, whose beauty led one to imagine the hidden features equally lovely.

Every now and then we encountered an officer, or a wealthy Memlook, curvetting down the street, on a high-spirited Arab horse, superbly caparisoned with velvet and gold. They generally were furnished with pistols in holsters, and two or three, dazzling with gems, were stuck in the girdle. They were always followed by a running syce, or groom, and often by mounted attendants.

Passing through these motley scenes we at length reached the citadel, which is built on the summit of a hill, and commands the whole of Cairo and the surrounding plains. It is very strongly fortified; we passed through a number of archways and gateways, defended by bastions, before we began the ascent, which is almost perpendicular, and in many places so narrow as scarcely to

admit three horsemen abreast between the walls which flank it.

The summit is occupied by the Pasha's palace, his hharee'm, a large hall where the council meet, police offices, &c. &c., and the grand square, rendered so famous as the scene of the massacre of the Memlooks, on the first of March, 1811; when Mohammed Ali, after having entertained them at his palace, caused the gates of the citadel to be closed against them as they were returning, and commanded his troops to assassinate the whole. No less than 470 bodies were counted in the morning.

Whatever may have been the motives of the Pasha, and the supposed necessity which drove him to perpetrate this deed of treachery and blood, it must ever blast his name with opprobrium. We were shewn the spot from whence the only Memlook who escaped the general massacre leapt from the ramparts into the town below; it is quite fearful to look at, and yet, most astonishing to say, he was very little hurt; though his horse was

killed by the fall. He is now a Bey in the Pasha's service.

The vice-royal palace looks into this court; we were not allowed to go over it, as it is now occupied by the hharee'm, during the Pasha's absence at Alexandria. We were shewn, however, the large hall of audience, and another splendid apartment where the governor and his staff were seated on divans. We made our bows to him, and were allowed afterwards to make the tour of the rooms.

The view from the windows was one of the most magnificent I ever saw, and certainly the most extensive. Grand Cairo, with its domes and minarets, lay at our feet, and stretching far to the right, every where interspersed with trees and gardens. Beyond were the mosques of the caliphs, and the Memlook tombs; the solitary obelisk that marks the site, and is the sole remaining vestige, of regal Heliopolis; and then, as far as the eye could reach, stretched the boundless desert of Arabia Petræa.

Before us wound the fruitful Nile, co-

vered with sails and barks of every description, till its course was concealed from view in the fertile plains and the olive and orange groves of the Delta. The Ports of Boulac and Old Cairo, with numerous villages, studded its banks, while from its bosom rose several verdant islands, of which Rhoda is the queen.

To the left the silver stream was still visible, running fresh from the ruins of mighty Thebes, Luxor, and Carnac, whose walls it had washed in its downward course. It was bordered on each side by a narrow strip of cultivated land, and all around was desert.

But we had scarcely time to mark these lesser features in the landscape, for in this direction rose the mighty Pyramids, which immediately arrested and detained all attention. Those of Gizeh, although twelve miles off, appeared quite close; amongst them that of Cheops rose pre-eminent, and overwhelmed the mind with astonishment.

I could scarcely withdraw my eyes from these colossal piles, and determined to visit them to-morrow; but, alas! these plans were

frustrated, and I left Egypt without obtaining a nearer view of them than could be had from Cairo.

What dreams and visions of bygone days are conjured up by these monuments of antiquity, which still stand unshaken amid the buried and prostrate ruins of the mighty city to which we suppose they owe their origin! Even the site of the stately Memphis is disputed; but I cannot help clinging to the idea that it glittered in the immediate vicinity of the Pyramids, and that they themselves were raised by the labour of the Israelites, while smarting under the heavy lash of the task-masters imposed upon them by its imperious and impious monarch.

I cannot imagine any one being disappointed in the size of the Pyramids; even at this distance they struck me as being larger than any work of man the imagination could conceive. To the extreme left we saw the pyramids of Sakara, which bound the horizon in that direction, and also appear much nearer than they really are.

I could scarcely tear myself away from

this astonishing scene, the beauty of which was heightened by a magnificent sunset, shedding a rich warm hue over every object.

Returning through the palace, I managed to peep through some windows looking into a suite of apartments, apparently magnificently ornamented with painted ceilings and wainscoats.

We passed through some extensive buildings, appropriated to the police, and then repaired to the terrace overlooking the ramparts; it is defended by a high stone wall, and nearly all the embrasures are furnished with large pieces of cannon. The view from hence is nearly the same as that we had just obtained from the palace, but not so extensive. We looked immediately below into several large barracks and barrack-yards, where bodies of troops were going through their manœuvres. In another place we saw a horse auction, at which several horses were shewing off for sale.

Looking at Cairo from this height, I could scarcely believe it the same town I had

just traversed, with its crooked narrow lanes. The reason of this is, that all the best houses have, in the interior, large open courts and gardens, which cannot be seen from the street.

Near this place is the famous well called Joseph's Well, it being constructed by a celebrated governor of that name. I postponed visiting it until another opportunity, which never occurred. It is remarkable for the immense depth of the shaft, which can be descended by several flights of steps. The water, in common with all the other wells of Cairo, filters through the soil from the Nile, during which process it contracts a brackish taste.

Before quitting the citadel we visited the magnificent mosque which is being constructed by order of Mohammed Ali. It occupies an immense arena, and is built entirely of Oriental alabaster. It has even now, in its very unfinished state, a most imposing appearance. I was particularly struck by some double rows of pillars in the interior of the building, of the most exquisite pro-

portions and workmanship, and composed of the same costly material.

Hundreds of people were employed in the neighbourhood, in cutting and shaping the stones, and carrying away the rubbish. It is supposed that, when completed, it will vie in splendour with the finest mosques in Constantinople.

When we returned to our donkeys, we found the whole square full of a crowd of men, women, and children of the lower orders, giving utterance to the greatest jargon of sounds I ever heard. I could not make out from our dragoman what they had assembled for; but they appeared decidedly inimical to us, and were only dispersed by several of the police officers running in amongst them, dealing blows with their heavy whips from side to side. Even after this two or three stones were thrown at us.

All the way, as we were ascending to the citadel, I felt certain misgivings as to how I should muster courage to come down in my rickety vehicle. Imagine, then, my horror when, while I was giving directions in Eng-

lish about the care they must take in descending, my donkey-men suddenly struck the donkeys with their sticks, and away they went full gallop down the narrow zigzag hill. They rushed on with such an impetus, that nothing could stop them; and all I could do was to hold tight on to the chair with my hands, expecting every moment to be precipitated over the front donkey. But my fears were groundless; I reached the bottom in safety.

We now proceeded to visit the "mosque of Sultan Hassan," the oldest and largest in Cairo. I was told at first that I could not be of the party; but this I was determined should not be the case, and I subsequently found no difficulty in gaining admittance. This mosque was the nearest of the many hundreds we had seen from the citadel. The exterior, which occupies a great part of the street in which it stands, is, in common with all other buildings of the same kind, coloured red and white in alternate courses. I do not think the effect at all good; it takes off from the imposing grandeur of the

architecture, and gives to it a modern and tawdry appearance.

We ascended a large flight of steps to the entrance; here we were shewn part of the stone-floor stained with the blood of some Memlooks, who were massacred even in this sacred spot. We passed through several dark vaulted passages, breathing any thing but aromatic perfumes, and which terminated in a square open court.

A double bar of wood arrested our progress, and we were requested to take off our shoes before we entered the sacred precincts. This was an obstacle I had not reckoned upon, and appeared an insurmountable one to me; for to tread barefoot on the damp stone pavement was an imprudence I did not dare venture upon. However, it was discovered that my shoes were of stuff; so, after they had been carefully wiped and dusted, I was allowed to pass free. The gentlemen had to take off their boots, and deposit them at the door.

The court is surrounded by porticoes, and in the centre is a large covered tank, for the

faithful to perform their ablutions. The portico which faces the direction of Mek'keh is larger than the others, and is supported by a double row of columns. In this is a pulpit, and a raised kind of desk railed round with small pillars, supporting a huge copy of the Koran. The pavement in many parts is beautifully inlaid with different coloured marble; but it was disgustingly dirty.

We now entered the sanctuary, or main body of the mosque, in the centre of which are enshrined the remains of Sultan Hassan, who was stabbed in this very spot; the stain of his blood is still visible on the pavement. His tomb is guarded by an iron railing, which is surrounded by dirty, tattered pieces of matting, spread for the people to prostrate themselves on when they pay their devotions. Upon the lid of the sarcophagus, which is quite unornamented, are placed a small iron chest and an ancient copy of the Koran, both belonging to the deceased.

The ceiling of this spacious hall (for I know not what else to call it) consists of a

number of domes, painted in imitation of mosaic; and the gallery which runs all round is ornamented with long friezes in stucco, consisting of passages from the Koran in gigantic Arabic characters. This has a very curious and pretty effect.

Representation of any thing that has life is strictly forbidden, consequently the walls are simply whitewashed, excepting the lower part, which is mosaic. Notwithstanding its loftiness and fine proportions, I must say I was disappointed with this much-admired mosque. The almost total deficiency of ornament and sculpture gives a naked and unfinished appearance; and the filth of the place destroys any pleasure one might have in viewing it.

I came to the conclusion, that all places of Moos'lim worship should only be visited when peopled with the Moos'lims themselves, whose picturesque costume and varied devotional prostrations would amply make amends for all that is wanting in interest in the sanctuary itself.

I can imagine it a magnificent and im-

posing spectacle when, during some of the great fêtes, and even on every returning Friday (the Mohammedan Sabbath), thousands of these grave devotees throng the spacious courts and porticos of Sultan Hassan, particularly at the close of the day, when the myriads of quaint and ornamental lamps (which we saw suspended from the great portico) are lit, throwing their lurid light over the bended multitudes.

But this is a sight denied to woman's eyes; and during the time we were at Cairo my ill health prevented my feeling enough of the spirits which have induced many of my countrywomen to transform themselves into Turkish boys, and thus witness the forbidden rites, and satisfy their English curiosity. While we were in it the mosque was almost deserted.

CHAPTER VI.

Streets of Cairo—Dogs—Shoobra Palace—Mohammed Ali—The Pasha's Hharee'm—Avenue of Acacia Trees—Coffee-house—Horsemen—Cairo Lake—Egyptian and Turkish Ladies—Ladies Riding—Women of the Middle Class—Women of the Lower Class—Tattoo—Children—Fella'hhs—Conscription—One-eyed Regiment—Taxes—Island of Rhoda—Moses.

CHAPTER VI.

We returned to the hotel by a different direction, and passed through a great many by-streets, but in which, however, most of the best and distinguished houses in Cairo are situated. I could never have imagined any street so narrow; in many parts there was barely room for two donkeys to pass. The buildings were very lofty, and the projecting casements of the upper stories constantly overlapped those opposite, entirely excluding the sky from the street beneath.

The dark wooden lattice-work added to the gloom produced by the fading day, and, altogether, there was an air of mystery and adventure while threading through this labyrinth of crooked passages, which at this hour were almost deserted, that quite

charmed me. The stillness was unbroken except by the cry of the boys urging on the donkeys, and now and then some distant bell.

Here and there a closely-veiled female passed us, hurrying on to her distant hharee'm, from which she had played truant; and often we disturbed a bevy of half-starved dogs, who had taken up their nightly quarters in the middle of the street; they growled menacingly at us as we passed, and then resumed their broken slumbers.

This description only applies to the streets occupied by private houses, for when we again immerged into the great thoroughfares, all was bustle and confusion, enhanced by the increasing darkness; for none of the streets are lighted with lamps, and the only light proceeds from the dim and solitary tapers of the surrounding shops, and even these are closed at an early hour. Most of the pedestrians carry lamps with them. Many of the poorer classes do not own a roof to shelter them, and pass the night in the streets.

I was very glad to find myself back in the hotel at ten, after all my fatigues. The waiters are all Italian, and understand scarcely any thing else.

June 29th.—Having heard that there was to be a fête at Shoobra, we fixed upon it as the object of our evening's excursion. This is the country palace of Mohammed Ali; he has had it built under his own direction, and the garden laid out by a Scotch gardener. He resides a great deal here, but not so much as formerly, when his favourite sultana (his first wife) was alive. She was the mother of his eldest son and heir, Ibrahim Pasha, who was born while she was Mohammed's slave. His two other sons by her, Toussoun and Ismael, the former of whom died of the plague, and the latter at Sanaar, were born after she became his wife.

Now he usually remains, when at Cairo, at the house of his daughter, the widow of the haughty and blood-thirsty Bey, who was supposed to be equally as likely to become the successor to the vice-regal throne as

Ibrahim Pasha. Apartments have been fitted up for his royal highness in the princess's palace, quite in the European style. It is said she wishes to marry a second time, but her father will not give his consent to any such proceeding, and she is obliged to content herself with single blessedness as well as she may. The Pasha very seldom lives at his palace in the citadel, where his Cairo hharee'm usually resides, for he has two establishments, one here and one at Alexandria; so that in changing his residence he has the additional agreeableness of changing his wives. However, he does not shew his favour to one more than the other; for although the Alexandrian hharee'm is within the palace walls, he has seldom entered it during the last few years, and his wives and slaves are kept merely as a necessary appendage to his establishment. A short time ago he had some very lovely creatures as slaves, but has lately married them all to different officers of his court.

We started for Shoobra about five o'clock, but I was so tired and shaken by my yester-

day's expedition, that I could not bear the donkeys to go out of a walk, so we proceeded very slowly. Soon after leaving the city-gate we turned into a wide road, shaded on each side by a magnificent avenue of acacia-trees, growing in all the luxuriance and perfection they attain in this climate.

They are different from any of the same species I have seen in other countries; the flower is very large, does not grow in bunches, and the seed-pods reminded me of those of the tamarind-tree. This splendid avenue was planted by Mohammed Ali, who cut down a similar one of mulberry-trees which occupied the same place. It is astonishing how quickly they have grown; they appear fifty or sixty years old.

I did not get on so prosperously as yesterday; my chair kept falling down backwards, and slipping from the donkeys; and, what was still more disagreeable, a strong hot wind was blowing from the desert right in our faces, bringing with it volumes of sand, which almost blinded us.

When we had got about half way we came to a large coffee-house and garden, where groups of Turks were sitting on benches outside, sipping sherbet and smoking their long pipes.

This scene tempted the gentlemen to dismount and refresh themselves also, while I continued my road; but I had not proceeded far before the wind became so disagreeable that I turned back, reserving my visit to the gardens till Sunday, when there was to be another fête.

As I returned alone with my dragoman, I was passed by numerous well-dressed horsemen, mounted on beautiful Arabs gaily caparisoned, running races with each other, and performing a number of difficult feats. At one moment they shot past me like the wind, and I expected to see some of them precipitated to the hard, uneven ground; but in another the impetuosity of the horses was entirely stopped, and their riders were handling them in the most perfect way, making them canter slowly, taking two or three steps with one foot foremost and then

with the other, backwards and forwards, without stopping the speed. It is astonishing what equestrian skill they possess, and this almost without exception.

I passed through what I call the Grand Square, but in reality it is the dry bed of the artificial lake, which is filled by the canal during high Nile, and is then thronged with boats and sails, while it is only separated from the surrounding houses by a wide road, shaded by an avenue of acacia-trees that encircles it. Now, however, it looks like a large, uneven, sandy square, with a draw-well and a few straggling trees in the midst of it.

I met here several of the fair denizens of the city, taking their evening airing, some on foot and some mounted on their sturdy donkeys. I shall endeavour to describe their out-door costume in this place, and finish the account of the mysteries of their toilet after I have penetrated the secret precincts of the hharee'm.

A great deal of coquetry is displayed in arranging the different articles that compose

the riding or walking attire of a Turkish or Egyptian lady. The more breadths of silk they can carry about them the better; the consequence is that they look full as broad as they are long; and one would suppose them of an extra circumference to any other women on the globe, were it not for the delicate tapering white hands, covered with rings, that peep from beneath the hhab'-arah, and the lively sparkling black eyes, discovered through the openings of the face-veil, which could belong to no woman who had exceeded that certain *embonpoint* which adds to rather than deteriorates beauty.

They spare no expense in their dress, which is usually of the most costly material; and often a single walking paraphernalia costs them from twenty to thirty pounds. Before leaving her house, the lady first puts on, in addition to her hharee'm costume, a large loose robe, each sleeve of which is as wide as the length of the gown: this is called a to'b, and is composed of the richest silk or satin, always of some gay colour—pink, yellow, red, or violet.

She next adjusts her boor'cko', or face-veil: this consists of a long strip of the finest white muslin; often of Indian muslin, and exquisitely embroidered. It is fastened just between the eyes, and conceals all the other features; it reaches to the feet. At the top it is attached to a narrow white band in the centre of the forehead, which is fastened to the head-dress, as also are the two outer corners of the veil.

She next envelopes herself in the hhab'-arah, a large cloak of rich black silk, tied round the head by a piece of narrow riband, fastened inside, and concealing the whole figure. It is kept in its place by being held on each side by the hands, which are twisted round in a curious way, with the thumbs upwards.

In this manner the lady prevents it from coming too forward, or blowing back by the wind, and the rich to'b is still displayed in front. The whole costume is completed by a pair of yellow morocco boots, which reach a considerable way up the leg, and bring to view a pair of ample trousers, composed in

general of silk gauze: these boots give the most extraordinary shuffling gait imaginable, and very much impede the progress.

But comparatively few ladies walk in the streets; those who can afford it always procure a donkey: they sit astride, upon a very high and broad saddle, covered with a rich Turkey carpet, and place their feet in a stirrup on each side, but the ample folds of their garments completely conceal their legs. They do not hold the reins, but continue engaged with their hhab'-arah, while a man-servant or slave conducts the donkey.

The effect produced by these fair equestrians is very striking and singular, but nothing unfeminine can be imputed to their mode of seating themselves: they remind one as little of a cavalier as they do of an English lady in her hat, habit, and side-saddle. They generally proceed at a walk, or at the most an ambling trot. The wind, gathering beneath the ample hhab'-arah and distending it to its full extent, makes them appear three times the size they really are, particularly when on foot. The hhab'-

arah of an unmarried lady is composed of white instead of black silk; but these are not so often met with, as few remain single after the age of fourteen or fifteen.

It is very amusing to watch the various adjustments of the face-veil: a young and pretty woman is sure to have the forehead band as narrow and long as possible, in order to lower the veil and display to the best advantage her bright eyes, fine forehead, and fair complexion. I have often seen a large portion of the face visible. Those, on the contrary, who are old and ugly leave barely room for their eyes, and appear jealously to conceal their fictitious charms.

The middle class of females, great numbers of whom are always to be seen thronging the streets of Cairo, wear, instead of the hhab'-arah of black silk, one of cotton plaid, chequered blue and white, with a mixture of red at the border. Their trousers are of blue or white linen; their shirts are of the same material, and generally open in front, displaying a considerable part of their persons,

which contrasts strangely with their closely covered heads and faces.

But having concealed what they consider of the most importance, they care little how much they expose the remainder. Some wear a to'b over their shirts, similar to that of the ladies, excepting that it is composed of linen. Their boor'cko' or face-veil is composed of a coarse black crape, fastened at the top by a chain of brass or silver tassels,

or a string of coins or beads. Their shoes are generally of red morocco, turned up at the toes.

The women of the poorest sort seldom wear any thing but a blue linen shirt, nearly up to the knees, and a mantle of the same material, which envelopes the head; this they draw half over the face when necessary, and conceal all but one eye; many, however never attempt to cover their faces, and I think they might all save themselves the trouble; for, from their constant exposure to the sun and wind since childhood, they are, almost without exception, dry and shrivelled, and few can boast of more than one eye. Most have their faces, hands, feet, and neck, tattooed in blue and green colours.

The children are often left entirely unclothed until the age of six or seven, and have a variety of beads, coins, and other charms tied about their bodies, in order to protect them from the effects of the "Evil Eye," which is so much dreaded by all classes in this country. The mothers

generally carry them on their shoulders. Those of the higher orders often place their little hopeful on the donkey in front of them, when the miniature Mussulman is almost hid from view in the ample folds of his mother's hhab'-arah.

The men of the same class with the women I have just described, and who are called "fella'hhs" (synonymous with peasant), wear the same dress of blue linen, only instead of the mantle, they have a turban or turboo'sh on their heads. They appear to be a fine strong race of men, but are almost invariably one-eyed. This is often not owing to disease, but is done by themselves, to avoid the conscription, which is more dreaded by them than any thing, as they are torn by it from their homes and families, never to return. They mutilate themselves in various ways, such as knocking out the front teeth, which incapacitates them from biting a cartridge, or by cutting off one of their fingers; but the custom of blinding themselves became at one time so prevalent, that the Pasha raised a regiment

which is entirely composed of one-eyed soldiers, so that this expedient no longer avails. The conscription weighs heavily on all parts of the population, and its evil effect is felt also by those who are not enlisted.

Many years ago a census of the population was taken, of every village throughout Egypt, and the amount of tax fixed accordingly. This has never been removed, although several of the hamlets contain barely half the number of inhabitants they formerly did; and of those that remain numbers are yearly taken away to swell the ranks of the army. Still the tax-gatherer makes his annual rounds, and demands and enforces payment, to the amount of the original population, of the impoverished residue.

Another instance of this faulty government came within my knowledge. There is a certain rate fixed upon all the date-trees throughout the kingdom; they were reckoned and valued many years ago, and each village or proprietor paid annually so much a tree. In the lapse of time numbers

of these, of course, died, or were otherwise destroyed; those who had possessed a large grove of date-trees, perhaps no longer had one remaining. But no corresponding reduction of the tax has been made: the original amount is still demanded and paid; and for this abuse no redress can be obtained.

June 30th. — This afternoon G. and I went to visit the gardens on the Island of Rhoda. I felt more than usually interested in this spot, as it is said to be the place where Pharaoh's daughter discovered the infant Moses concealed in the bulrushes; and near it is supposed to have been the palace where she brought him up as her own son, where the youth and early manhood of the chosen lawgiver first expanded, and his thoughts, directed by his Hebrew mother, first turned to that God who afterwards worked so many miracles by his hands.

CHAPTER VII.

Cairo—Burial-Ground—Tombstones—City of Tombs—Road to Rhoda—Old Cairo—Great Canal—Annual Opening of it—Nilometer—Nile—Thoughts on the Past—Rhoda Gardens—Beautiful Bouquet—Gigantic Laburnum—Grotto—Kiosk—Splendid Landscape—The Cka'dee, or Chief Judge of Cairo—New Fruit—Prayers—Well-bred Turks—Ferry-boat—Singular Nuts—Rare Flowers.

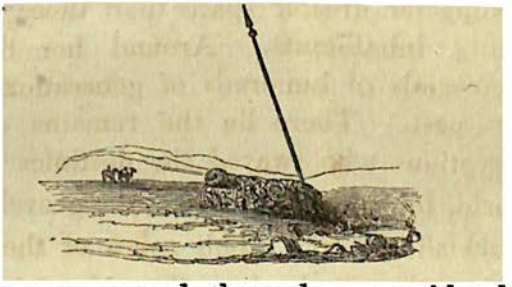
CHAPTER VII.

We quitted Cairo by a different quarter to any I had before traversed; the houses looked more dilapidated, and the people poorer than usual. Soon after leaving the city gates we traversed an extensive burial-ground, which stretched far to our right; it was closely studded with the neat and well-kept memorials of the dead, for which all Mohammedan countries are conspicuous. The most common monuments consist of an oblong square, raised about four or five feet from the ground, with an arched opening on one side. They are always of brick or stone, and the top is surmounted by two blocks of the same material at the head and foot.

Cairo may well be called the "City of Tombs," for the habitations of her dead occupy far greater space than those of her living inhabitants. Around her lie the memorials of hundreds of generations that are past. There lie the remains of the Egyptians who swayed the destinies of the world, by the side of those who grovelled in Turkish slavery. The ashes of the Pharaohs, the Ptolomies, the Moorish conquerors, the Caliphs, and the Memlooks, are mingled together with those of the ignoble Turk and the degenerate Arab of later days. All lie peaceably and unmolested in the same soil—a striking lesson of the instability, not only of individual but of national greatness.

One of the reasons of the constant increase of the cities of the dead is that the Moos'lim holds their habitation sacred, and never disturbs the cemetery of bygone centuries to form those of his own generation. Thus the sepulchral plains are constantly enlarging.

The following sketch G. made on the edge of the desert.



We now passed through a considerable tract of irrigated land. The paths we followed were shaded by avenues of cypress, and every now and then this sombre, yet beautiful scene, was cheered by a picturesque draw-well, worked by a couple of magnificent oxen, and surrounded by a group of ancient acacia-trees.

At length we emerged into a large open space, shaded on both sides by an avenue, and in front of us stood the palace of Ibrahim Pasha. We passed close to it on the right, and found ourselves in the narrow streets of old Cairo, with its mosques and minarets overhanging the Nile. Here is the commencement of the Great Canal, which

at high Nile runs through the whole extent of the city, and terminates in the lake I have described in a former part of my journal. It was quite dry now, and the entrance was guarded from the river by an artificial embankment.

Cutting this dyke, and thus affording a free passage for the waters through the thirsty city, is one of the greatest festivals in the Egyptian year. The day fixed for this important ceremony is supposed to be that on which the Nile has attained its greatest height. This is determined by the Nilometer, situated on the opposite Island of Rhoda. The whole population assemble the previous night, and throng the river in boats, all anxious to be the first to sail down the renewed canal. By day break the dyke is cut, in the presence of the Pasha and his court, who shower down gold and silver coins into the rushing water.

The instant after, thousands of barks, filled with gaily-dressed people, are to be seen sailing through the city.

As soon as we reached the ferry we dis-

mounted, and descended a long flight of steps to the boat that was awaiting us; and now for the first time I was on the Nile, and bathing my hands as we paddled across in its sacred and venerable waters, —those waters, the bases of many, and so intimately connected with all of those thrilling legends of Egyptian lore that filled my childhood's mind with wonder,—those very waters which annually formed the nuptial bed and the grave of the fairest virgin of the realm, who was united to the hoary River in fictitious wedlock, with the view of propitiating his favour to her native land.

This and many other recollections crowded on my mind, and made me almost imagine myself in the land of dreams. Nor was the present aspect of the stream calculated to dispel the illusion. It is true, numerous sails were gliding along on its waters, that probably would have astonished the ancient inhabitants of the land. But a soothing calm pervaded every thing, accompanied by the low murmuring of waters, which nursed the imagination. No vociferous cry of boat-

men broke upon the ear; the Moos'lims guide their craft in a silence habitual to their race.

When we reached the opposite bank we paused to look around us. It was a lovely scene. In front, the bank of the river was studded with the picturesque draw-wells of the country, while the town of old Cairo towered above. To the right and left the eye followed the windings of the Nile, bearing on its bosom butterfly-winged boats, and the picturesque latine sail; while high on the bank behind us waved the majestic trees of Rhoda Gardens. We climbed the steps conducting to them; in a few months hence these steps will be under water, as the Nile at its height washes the very walls of this little paradise. It belongs to Ibrahim Pasha, whose hharee'm opens into its flowery shades.

I cannot fancy any thing more lovely than this charming spot, although I am told Shoobra surpasses it. But, at all events, this has the advantage that its beauties are fresh from Nature's hand, and were it not

for the well-kept walks and weedless flower-beds, that of man would be invisible.

The most prevalent shrub is the luxuriant myrtle, covered with its odoriferous white blossom, and generally exceeding eight feet in height. The whole garden is intersected by hedges of this beautiful plant. On one side are magnificent avenues of acacias in full bloom, leading to terraces overhanging the Nile, shaded by groves of weeping willows. Then following one of these narrow winding paths, cut through a plantation of olive-trees, you come to a silvery stream, meandering beneath flowering shrubs of every hue, from the graceful laburnum of the north to the blushing pomegranate of the south. Beyond this you find yourself under the shadow of an avenue of tall mulberry-trees, which leads you to a sunny region, where the rose and the geranium flourish in wild luxuriance, only checked by the magnificent hedges of cactus that surround them, also in full blossom, and presenting, as a whole, the blended beauties of the western and eastern world.

But, as I have said, description is vain; it would require a pen dipped in rainbow hues to write it. Every where gaudy-coloured butterflies and gauzy-winged dragon flies were sipping and fluttering among the sweets that surrounded them, while myriads of birds chanted forth their orisons from the leafy branches above. Sometimes a hoopoo, with its glossy black and white plumage, started up close to our feet, from a neighbouring thicket; then a lovely little blue bunting flew out from some flowery shrub, and twittered around us almost within our grasp; immediately after a green crested wren perhaps would cross our path. Every thing appeared redolent of life and beauty in this favoured spot, and our senses of sight, smell, and hearing, were equally gratified.

In a short time I had collected an exquisite bouquet of geraniums, roses, pomegranates, and numerous other sweets, interspersed with myrtle. Here no envious and lynx-eyed gardener forbids one to partake and carry away a gleaning of those beauties so profusely displayed around. On the con-

trary, a young man, who was evidently entitled to do so by his office, came forward, when he saw us, and presented me with a nosegay, composed of the most choice plants in the garden.

We had been wandering amongst a plantation of olive-trees, when suddenly the narrow path we were following opened upon the crystal stream I have before described, just at a point where a handsome stone bridge was thrown over it. The material it was composed of was almost hidden from view by a profusion of flowering creepers, while aloes planted by the water's edge were rearing their gigantic flower-stalks eleven and twelve feet in height above it, throwing the lemon perfume of their petals into the already scented air. We crossed this bridge and found ourselves in a large open space, carpetted with turf, surrounded by a walk and a grove of pomegranate-trees in full bloom. In the centre of the lawn was a lofty flowering shrub, which I at first took for the laburnum, but upon approaching nearer I found I was

mistaken, although the flower strongly resembles it; it is exactly the same colour, but each bunch of blossom is at least four or five times as long and full, and the seed-pods, some of which we gathered, were a foot and a half in length. This open spot fronts a kiosk (or country-house) now building for the Pasha.

We hurried on, as the sun was now very hot, to the acacia grove on the other side, where we seated ourselves on one of the numerous benches which are to be found in every part of the gardens. Just as we were thinking of going home we met some of our fellow-passengers, who directed our attention to a curious grotto, which, as we had not seen it, we turned back to visit. The grotto is entered from a marble terrace overlooking the stream, which is here widened into a large sheet of water surrounding three sides of the kiosk. It is composed entirely of shells and coral, brought from the Red Sea, very ingeniously inlaid. There are two compartments, the first of which is entered by a cavity barely large enough to admit one per-

son when bent double. In the last is a sparkling fountain, sending the music of its waters through the cool retreat. Here Ibrahim Pasha delights to smoke his shib'ook, accompanied by a few chosen friends, and wile away the monotony of a Mohammedan day. This grotto reminded me of the one I saw several years ago in the gardens of the Little Trianon at Versailles, where Marie Antoinette and the favourite ladies of her court retired to chat and sip their tea during the sultry evenings of summer, and forget the tedium of regal splendour.

I accompanied our friends into the kiosk. The Pasha has a great many of these small houses, perched about in the prettiest situations; they are intended for him to pass a few hours in during the summer heat, and smoke his shib'ook, while he views the varied prospect beneath, and is refreshed by the cool breezes wafted through flowery regions.

The present erection is very simple and unostentatious, the principal feature being the water, which surrounds it like a moat on

three sides, and washes its walls. It is three stories high, and the view from the top is enchanting. I stood upon the little balcony of one of the windows, quite entranced with the scene. Immediately below me lay the whole extent of the island, spread out with all its parterres and terraces, like a map of many colours, girded by the silvery river, whose course stretched on either side as far as the eye could reach. Cairo was behind me; but immediately in front stood out the colossal Pyramids, in bold relief. I was much nearer to them than at the citadel, and they consequently appeared more gigantic than ever; but the blue misty hue on their surface reminded me of the many miles which still divided us. I could have looked and looked for ever; but the carpenter, who was working at the window-frame, and pestering for "buckshiesh," would not allow me to interrupt him any longer.

When we returned to the grotto we found our party had disappeared; so, accompanied by Mr. Jackson, I walked to a terrace in a

part of the garden I had not yet seen, where he wished to make a sketch. As we were winding through a lovely bosquet of flowers, my Greek dragoman overtook us, and told me a long story, which I could not understand, about an Effendi and sherbet, at the same time begging me to return. But, thinking he was imposing some story upon me for his own convenience, which he had often done before, I paid no attention, and continued my walk.

We at length reached the marble terrace overhanging the Nile in its downward course, where my companion began to sketch; and I seated myself on a step, musing on Moses and Pharaoh's daughter, when I was again summoned by Carlos, who bore a message from G., begging me to return immediately. This time I obeyed, and very sorry I was I had not done so at first, as we found G. and his friends under the shade of an avenue of weeping willows, in earnest conversation with a venerable and princely looking Turk, who was seated, in the fashion of his country, upon a rich car-

pet, spread on the broad marble balustrade which skirted the stream. He was no less a person than the Ckádee, or chief judge of Cairo, who is sent yearly from Constantinople to visit the government and proceed with great caravan to Mek'keh. He is obliged to be a man of property, and of the sect of the Hhanáfees. All sentences of law are confirmed by him; and he receives a heavy per-centage upon sales, legacies, and disputed property. In fact, he is one of the greatest and most important men in the country.

The dress of this personage on the present occasion was composed of the finest pale-blue cashmere, confined round the waist by a superb shawl; he wore on his head a voluminous turban, wound round the more modern turboo'sh, which was composed of the finest Indian muslin, of a dazzling whiteness. Nothing could be more dignified and benign than the expression of his countenance, which was enhanced by the noble costume he wore. All his attendants, two of whom were persons of distinction, stood round him the whole time; but he con-

tinually invited my husband and his friends to sit close to him.

In a short time a gold ewer of delicious sherbet was brought and handed round in tumblers; and here the universal hospitality of the Turks displayed itself, as the dragomen partook of it as well as their masters. No Osmanlee, however exalted his rank, considers it a degradation to share his meal with the poor and humble; every one is welcome to partake of it, from the pasha to the beggar.

The Effendi entered into an animated conversation, and said how delighted he should have been to introduce me to his hharee'm, but unfortunately it was at Constantinople. He inquired very particularly about the English steam-vessels now plying on the Red Sea, and seemed anxious to avoid the most difficult part of his pilgrimage to Mek'keh, by going from Suez to Jidda by water; but the difficulty was how to induce the captain of any of the vessels to touch there. He was quite delighted when G. offered to give him a letter to Captain Stavers of

the India, to request him to forward his wishes; and he wrote down his name immediately with his own hand.*

On my first approaching the Effendi he made a most gracious bow, and motioned me to sit on a corner of his carpet. He was smoking a magnificent Persian pipe, set in gold, and he explained to G. the proper manner of smoking it; he also offered him snuff out of a splendid gold box, studded with brilliant gems. On his finger he wore one of the largest and most dazzling diamonds I ever saw; and each little finger was decorated by his own signet, entirely of gold. He paid me several polite little compliments, asked a great many questions, and seemed much amused by our answers.

During the interview one of the attendants brought a very pretty basket, which the Effendi presented to me. It was filled with a delicious fruit, which had been before pointed out to me as one of the rarest productions of the garden. The plant it grows

* The translation from the Turkish was given to us as Hissam Effendi Moshaik Neisser.

on is about the height and size of a currant or gooseberry bush; the fruit itself is plum-coloured, and the size of a small grape; it has a stone in the centre, and the taste is delicious, but differing from any other fruit I ever met with. He told me that he was the first person who had eaten of it in Rhoda Gardens, and that I was the second.

The obliging old gentleman was not content with this pretty present, but heaped quantities of peaches, apricots, pears, and apples around me, all of which had been cooling in the running water beside him, and now filled the hands and pockets of all our party.

While we were yet talking, a cry from a minaret proclaimed sun-set. Immediately the Effendi ceased to smoke, and even left the sentence he was uttering unfinished, and spreading a rug before him, and turning himself towards Mek'keh, he began his devotions, by kneeling down and stroking his long white beard, in the most reverential manner. He then prostrated himself three times, and touched the rug with his forehead. He next

rose, and, folding his arms, continued his prayers; then squatting down on his knees again, rocking himself incessantly backwards and forwards, he renewed his prostrations. He repeated the whole of this ceremony three times, and concluded by holding his hands towards heaven, and stroking down his beard. He then resumed his seat, and the servant took away the rug. During the whole time his lips were incessantly moving, but not a sound escaped from them.

The Effendi's attendants did not appear to think it at all necessary to keep silence during his orisons; on the contrary, they continued to laugh and talk as loud as ever, but no one addressed him, nor were we allowed to make our parting bow until he had finished, as any interruption, or a word or look of distraction, would have obliged him to begin again. As soon as his prayer was completed he resumed his conversation, as if nothing had happened.

We now took leave of him, and immediately after he arose; his servants gathered up his carpet, and he walked with a slow

and majestic pace, still on the top of the marble balustrade, as if he scorned to touch his feet with earth. His flowing robes, waving in the breeze, and his stately mien, made him look almost like the magician of this lovely spot, visiting his domain in the shades of evening.

There is something about a high-bred Turk that involuntarily inspires respect. Their invariably self-possessed and dignified air, united with a soft urbanity that looks down politely and feelingly to the lowest, bespeak that true nobility of the soul which commands universal deference.

But to return to the Ckádee. When he had nearly traversed the balustrade an attendant came forward, and, kneeling down, placed a pair of black boots on his master's feet, over those of yellow morocco he already wore. A magnificent cloak also was added to his costume.

We now hurried on to join our boat, but, on reaching the river, we found it already engaged to take the Effendi and his suite across; so we had to wait patiently till his

lordship made his appearance, which was no inconsiderable time, as his majestic march could ill keep pace with our ignoble Frankish shuffle.

As soon as he arrived at the water's edge, a fine green satin cushion was placed at the stern of the boat, for him to recline on. Seeing that we were waiting, and the bark not being large enough to accommodate the two parties, he begged G. and I to accompany him, leaving his attendants, with the exception of one, and our friends, to follow afterwards. He made me sit close to him, and presented me with two nuts, which he appeared to prize very much, and consider a great dainty. They looked like acorns, and were filled with a scented gum.* His horse was waiting for him on the oppo-

* I imagine this to have been the fruit of the lotus, "so much praised by Homer, and which so greatly delighted the companions of Ulysses, and were those of the modern jujube, or rhamnus lotus. The same tree is described by Theophrastus, under the name of the lotus, and is, perhaps the dudaim, or mandrake, of the Hebrew Scriptures."— *View of Ancient and Modern Egypt*, by the Rev. M. Russell, LL.D.

site shore: it was a beautiful little Arab, splendidly caparisoned in crimson velvet and gold, and he seemed much pleased with our admiration of it.

While we were waiting for the boat to recross, I remarked a beautiful bouquet which had been gathered expressly for the Ckádee: it was in the form of a cone, composed of the choicest flowers, and arranged with perfect harmony of colour. It would have done honour to the first horticultural prize. As soon as the Effendi saw me looking at it, he begged me to accept it. This was his greatest gift, as he evidently prized it much, and was fond of flowers; for, during all the time of his visit to the gardens, he had bunches of them floating about in the water by his side.

Once more we bade our distinguished acquaintance farewell, and hastened on to Cairo, delighted with our rencontre.

CHAPTER VIII.

Library of the Egyptian Society—Wedding Procession or Zef'feh—Turkish Bazar—Shoe Bazar—Slave Market and Slaves—Abyssinian Slaves—Scenes in the Streets of Cairo—Mosques—Wells, or Fountains—Sack'ckas or Water-Carriers—Sherbet—Itinerant Vendors—Turkish Cakes—Prickly Pear—Fruit and Vegetable Market—Cairo Dogs—Watering the Streets—Hair-Oil Bazar—Turkish Tables—Extraordinary Heat—Porous Vases—Petrified Forest—Soil of the Delta—Lunatic Asylum.

CHAPTER VIII.

July 1st.—We determined to devote to-day to making a tour of the streets of the metropolis, the greatest, I think, amongst its many curiosities. We first went to the Library of the Egyptian Society, where I was in hopes of procuring some books of reference which might serve as guides. We were shewn a great many beautiful prints of Thebes, Luxor, and Cairo; but, although there were many of the works I wanted, we were not allowed to take any away, and as it did not suit me to read them there, I was obliged to depart as wise as I came.

We first bent our steps to what is styled the Turkish Bazar, where the various and glittering articles of Eastern apparel are exposed for sale. In our way we encountered a "wedding procession," which is so singular

that I must attempt to describe it. First came two men skilled in sleight-of-hand, who were hired for the amusement of the party; they walked on either side of the street, and as the procession moved slowly forward, went from house to house, performing grotesque antics, and addressing some evidently witty words to many of the by-standers. Then followed a band of musicians with hautboys and drums: these were succeeded by the female relations and friends of the bride, walking two and two, dressed in their usual costume, with face-veils and hhab'arahs. Immediately in front of the bride came a number of young virgins clothed in white. Next followed the most remarkable part of the procession, viz. the bride herself. She walked under a canopy of rich yellow silk, reaching to the ground on three sides, and open only in front, borne by four men on the outside. Her dress completely concealed her whole person; she was covered from head to foot with a red cashmere shawl, surmounted by a kind of crown, from which hung some jewelled ornaments: two women,

also under the canopy, walked one on each side of her.

The procession was completed by another party of musicians, followed by a man bearing a box painted black and green, said to contain the presents. Every one had large nosegays of flowers in their hands. The bridal train is called zef'feh: at each wedding there are two of these processions, at least with those who can afford it; one to conduct the bride to the bath, that is hired for the occasion, and the other (the one we saw) to bring her to the bridegroom's house.

We at length reached the Turkish Bazar, one of the most curious and amusing parts of the city, and decidedly the most tempting. The streets it occupies are closed at both ends by large iron chains, to prevent the ingress of any but foot-passengers; as the dust occasioned by the various quadrupeds of Cairo would injure the costly goods it contains: for the same reason these streets are entirely covered, to exclude the sun and wind; rain there is none. Shops, of the same form as those I have before described,

lined the narrow way on each side. Upon every counter sat one or two magnificent Turks smoking their shib'ooks, apparently awaiting, not seeking, customers for the silks, satins, and rich stuffs, by which they were surrounded.

Some of these magazines were devoted entirely to the toilet of the Osmanli lords of the creation, where they could fit themselves out, from the embroidered shirt to the cashmere girdle. Others displayed to the wondering gaze all the paraphernalia requisite for the beauties of the Eastern hharee'm: not only the exquisite satin jackets embossed with flowers, the shirt of silk gauze, and trousers of many colours, but the crystal vase and golden bodkin, the one to hold, and the other with which to apply the *kohl*, that enhances the lustre of the brightest eyes in the world. Then there were tiny looking-glasses, set in mother-o'-pearl, gold, or gems, and a thousand other trinkets; the little embroidered slippers, and the flat rice-spoons, studded with jewels and composed of ivory or tortoise-shell.

Some of the costumes I looked over were magnificent, and composed of the richest materials, often of cloth of gold. Embroidered handkerchiefs were in abundance: these are used both in the bath and at dinner; they are generally white worked in gold, and very costly.

Many of the shops were devoted to jewellery, others to pipes and hookahs: the latter were generally of the most splendid description, and the display of crystal vases was quite dazzling. In fact, this bazar was a union of the Howell and James, and Maradan Carson, of Cairo, and must have ruined many an Egyptian and Turkish *belle* who has trusted herself within its glittering and tempting precincts.

We next visited the Shoe-Bazar, close by: here hundreds of workmen were employed in fabricating the yellow slippers, boots, and shoes so universally worn at Cairo, and for which there appears an immense demand.

Once more mounting our donkeys, we

turned our steps to the Slave-Market. My husband had visited it before; and I, notwithstanding my repugnance to do so, determined to examine it, in order that I might judge for myself as to its true character.

We passed under an archway, leading into a large open court surrounded by buildings appropriated to the different classes of slaves. There are comparatively few men, as the women are in the greatest request, and fetch three times the price of the males. The Georgians and Circassians, which are the white slaves, are never shewn to Europeans, and, being much more valuable, are kept in separate rooms, and with great care. Those that we saw were principally Nubians and Abyssinians: the former inhabit the ground floor. I entered several of their apartments, consisting of two rooms opening out of the court, and containing seven or eight women. A net was hung before the open door of each; and every thing looked so clean and well arranged, and the occupants so well dressed, that, were it not for the

absence of the face-veil, one could not have distinguished them from the women of the country.

And yet there was something revolting in their apparent ease and content, while thus exposed for sale to the highest bidder. It seemed too degrading to human nature, that the minds of these poor wretches should have habituated themselves, even to a state of tolerance, much more of satisfaction, in becoming objects of barter: they, in fact, look forward with delight to being made the inmates of a comfortable hharee'm,

where they are fed and clothed, and scarcely have any thing to do, but are treated almost as adopted children. This is not all; for if a slave renders herself agreeable to her master, he frequently emancipates her and makes her his wife. On the contrary, if she is not comfortable, she can, by law, oblige her owner (either master or mistress) to take her to the market and sell her, not to the highest bidder, but to any one she chooses who offers an equivalent to what was originally given for her. In point of fact, the slave in this country is so in name more than in reality: indeed, in some respects, she enjoys more freedom than the free woman who may have purchased her. A man may divorce his wife whenever he chooses, and send her almost adrift upon the world; but his slave he is obliged to provide for, until he can find a suitable purchaser.

Most of the Nubian girls I saw were quite young, and many of them as pretty as an olive skin would admit of. Their features were small, and did not at all partake of the Negro mould. The hair, in most instances,

was soft, abundant, and glossy. They were dressed with evident care, probably to shew their figures off to the best advantage.

In all the apartments we found the slaves playing about, laughing and chattering together. Some, however, were sleeping on couches in the inner room. They seemed pleased to see my husband, probably supposing he might prove a customer, and ran round him shewing their white teeth and sparkling eyes. But when I followed, their surprise was very great: they stared at me, whispered together, walked round me on their tiptoes, and touched my clothes; which gave me an involuntary shudder. They were evidently speculating who and what I was: I could not be a lady, as I wore no hhab'arah; and what was more, I could not be a free woman at all, appearing thus in public without my face-veil. I must, they probably thought, be some foreign slave, brought by my companion to the market for sale.

The distress which, I dare say, was strongly marked on my countenance, and the reluctance I evinced when G. first pressed

me to enter, most likely confirmed this supposition; and no sooner had they settled such to be the case in their own minds, than they began to shew some tokens of fellowship: one brought forward a basket-stool upon which she was squatting, while another took hold of my arm, motioning me to sit down. This was too much for me. During the whole time I was there I had felt as if I could scarcely breathe in this abode of human degradation, and now I fairly turned round and rushed into the open air. I was, doubtless, more excited and horrified than the occasion warranted; but it was an unconquerable weakness, and nothing could persuade me to cross the threshold again. So I remained in the court until G. rejoined me.

The price of these poor women varies from 1200 to 3000 piastres; their value depends upon their good looks and strength of limb.

I did not go up stairs to visit the Abyssinian slaves, as I had seen quite enough already; but I observed about forty or fifty

of them looking over the battlements of the building: they were jet black, and almost devoid of clothing. Their features partake of those of the Negro, and they wear their woolly black hair woven into thousands of tiny plaits, which hang bristling around them in a frightful fashion. They fetch a lower price* than the Nubians, as they do not boast the same beauty.

I looked with greater interest and more pity upon these poor creatures than upon any of the other slaves: in the first place, they are stolen from the plains and mountains of their native land, and brought unwilling captives to the scene of their bondage. I am told that many of them are in such despair, that they seek and often find an opportunity of throwing themselves into the Nile during the period of their transportation. But when one remembers that their

* I priced an Abyssinian, a very pretty young girl, about fifteen years of age, and decidedly one of the best. The price demanded was 1200 piastres, or 12*l.*, which sum, according to the usual Eastern system of dealing, would be reduced to half.—G. D. G.

national religion is our own—that Abyssinia is one of the oldest seats of Christianity—and that her children, from the time of Solomon, confessed unswervingly the true God, and modelled their creed from the law of Moses,—it makes one shudder to behold them torn with impunity and wholesale from the bosom of their families, to furnish domestic slaves to the infidel Mohammedans, who oblige them to recant the pure faith in which they were born.

I refused the importunities of Carlos, our dragoman, to inspect the Lunatic Asylum, and endeavoured to shake off the cloud that had rested upon my heart, by passing the remainder of the morning in the gay and bustling streets. And I know of no better remedy to forget one's self and one's previous thoughts, of whatever nature they may be, than to spend an hour in a Cairo thoroughfare, where every thing that passes is so novel and original as infallibly to attract the attention.

A very large portion of the city is occupied with mosques, which makes it appear, at a

little distance, like a forest of domes and minarets. One of these stupendous piles frequently constitutes the whole side of a street. They are invariably painted red and white, in the manner I described when I visited that of Sultan Hassan.

Wells or public fountains are, also, in great abundance; some of these structures—for they are always under cover—form very handsome objects. The stone and brick-work is similar to that of the mosques; but their distinctive mark is a pair of massive gates, generally elaborately carved. These gates are, I believe, closed at certain hours. The water in the wells filters through the soil from the Nile, and is always brackish; the consequence is, that hundreds of sack'ckas, or water-carriers, are perpetually traversing the streets, to supply the inhabitants with fresh river-water. It is transported in skins, borne on the backs of camels or donkeys, and sometimes by the sack'cka himself. The camel carries a pair of ox-hides, and the donkey and sack'cka goat-skins.

When these water-carriers do not supply

houses or families, but merely the passing passenger, the mouth of the skin, which is strapped across his back, is provided with a brass pipe, from which he pours out a draught into a cup he carries with him. There is, also, another class of water-carrier, almost equally numerous. They bear, instead of the hide, a large vessel of porous earth, rendering the water deliciously cool by evaporation. The spout of this protrudes above the shoulder.

Sherbet, the favourite beverage of the Mohammedans, is sold in the same way, and often ready mixed in tumblers, the vendor carrying them in a tray on his head. It would be impossible to enumerate the endless varieties of this delicious drink. Sometimes it is made of roses, at others of violets, melons, or lemons; but it seldom fails to please the palate.

I wished to give some idea of the other itinerant vendors that crowd the streets, but they are so multifarious and puzzling that the task would be endless; and, in fact, they must be seen to be understood. I

will not omit, however, mentioning the large, round, flat cakes, looking like gigantic crumpets, which the women hawk about the streets on large trays borne on their heads. The confusion of cries is quite extraordinary, and many of them are very peculiar.

I tasted to-day, for the first time, the prickly pear, now in high season. When the outer husk is pared off, a soft pulpy substance is left, filled with stones, something like those of the medlar. The flavour is decidedly delicate and agreeable. Just now the greatest variety of fruit is exposed for sale, and the markets for it quite line the narrow streets. Water-melons, oranges, peaches, indifferent pears, and apples, are in abundance. Amongst the vegetables are spinach, brinjaw, and asparagus, the first I have seen since I left England. The confusion occasioned by these greengrocers' stalls and the camels which are constantly replenishing them is very great. They make the animals kneel down close to the walls of the houses to unload, and I have fre-

quently come upon twenty or thirty of them, ranged in a row, one after the other, taking up more than one half the width of the road.

Another great drawback to quick travelling through the streets of Cairo, is the herds of dogs that infest every part of the city. They have no homes, as the Moos'lim looks upon them as unclean animals, whose touch is pollution. And yet the law obliges the inhabitants to furnish a certain quantity of food to the canine population of their district. I never saw a commonwealth flourish better than this one; and, notwithstanding their uncleanness, not a Moos'lim can traverse a street of Cairo without coming in contact with at least a score. They make a point of taking possession of the centre of the road, from which they are not easily dislodged; and even the donkeys make way for them instead of they for the donkeys. Their prevalent colour is of a dingy yellow, and they have more the appearance of jackals than dogs.

At this time of the year Cairo is very hot, and the dust that blows from the desert

would be intolerable, were it not that the streets are constantly kept wet by the sack'ckas, who, when employed for this purpose, carry a simple goat-skin, which they hold by the neck, showering the water out as they proceed.

July 2d.—Soon after breakfast this morning we were again traversing the lanes of Cairo, and, amongst other places, visited the Hair-oil Bazar. It seems an extraordinary name, but it is a very veracious one, for nothing is sold there but scents, oils, and gold lace for the hair. We dismounted at the entrance, for the path between the shops is only just wide enough for one person to walk, and where it is necessary to pass another, the squeezing is quite ridiculous. Yet I should think it is full half a mile long, and is covered in. I came with the intention of making some purchases, as my stock of the commodity was almost exhausted; but, somehow or other, although I tried at every shop, I could not satisfy my fastidious fancy. It is true every variety of perfume was offered to my notice, and

many were very delicious, yet still they were so unlike any thing I had smelt before, and, above all, so un-English, that visions of grey, or, at the least, *burnt-up* hair, flitted before my imagination, and I was afraid of choosing, notwithstanding the many fair young forms who were busy around me, fearlessly making their selections.

But to return to the bazar. It may easily be conceived that the aromatic odour was almost overpowering, when I say that every other shop was devoted to hundreds of scented bottles, and the intervening ones to exquisite perfumed head-dresses, consisting of braids of riband and gold lace, which, when worn, reach to the ground. On each divan sat one or more Moos'lim *coiffeurs*, whose profession was stamped on their delicately turned moustache and glossy silken beards.

We next paid a visit to a warehouse where the small Turkish tables are sold. Some of these are very beautifully inlaid with gold, silver, and mother-o'-pearl. The shape is exceedingly elegant, usually an

octagon. They are about a foot and a half high, and only large enough to hold one dish; for at a Turkish dinner the guests squat round the table on cushions, and only have one thing at a time, all dipping their fingers in together.

We wandered about the streets, finding incessant amusement, until I was fairly driven home by the heat. The sun is very powerful in Egypt at this time of the year, and during the day is almost more unbearable than in Ceylon, where there is always a refreshing breeze, whereas here there is nothing to agitate the atmosphere but the hot wind of the desert. The only relief from the heat was the delicious filtered Nile water, which we drank copiously, and this owes much of its excellency to the porous vases it is cooled in. They are made of a grey-coloured earth, and are always placed in a thorough draught; when the water is poured out from them it is as cold as if iced. These vases are of different forms, but all modelled from the antique. A considerable quantity of water filters through

them; so much so, that if one is filled at night, it will be empty in the morning.

When I returned to the hotel, I found that one of our friends had just come back from visiting the Petrified Forest, situated about seven miles from Cairo—an undertaking I was too unwell to embark in, but which I much regret not having accomplished, as this forest is certainly one of the most singular phenomena in the world of natural history. Our friend described it to me as occupying a considerable tract of ground in the midst of the desert. In every direction are to be seen large trunks of trees, many of them forty feet long, lying on the sand, and petrified into the hardest stone. All the veins of the wood, as well as the bark, are perfectly preserved and distinctly visible. Many of the trees appear to have been palms, and some olives. But the most extraordinary fact is, that, from the way in which the trees are found, it is evident they must have petrified while still standing, as they are, without exception, devoid of branches; this would not have been the

case had the transformation taken place after they were hurled to the earth. Near every trunk, and parallel to each joint marking where a limb originally grew, are piles of fragments, shewing that they were shivered from the stem into a thousand atoms by the fall of these mighty fabrics of vegetable stone.

It appears almost inconceivable that such primeval forests should not only have flourished and shed a benignant shade over what is now a burning desert, barely affording nourishment to the smallest weed, but that they should have still remained firmly rooted, raising their proud heads to the sky, until their verdant vegetation had become transformed into barren rock, and then, but not till then, did they resign their elevation over the sandy waste which surrounds them. It seems almost to pass belief, but still it is the opinion of all the learned who have investigated its wonders.

It appears more than probable, from this and many other remains found in various directions, that a great portion of what is now nothing but sandy desert was once fertile

and cultivated land, which in a great measure, through man's neglect, has been lost to him for ever. Even now, on the borders of Egypt, where irrigation is neglected, the light sand that is constantly blown onwards by the wind has made, and is annually making, great inroads; and were it not for the protecting and fertilising Nile, the fair face of the Delta would long since have become desert. But the voluminous river still rushes on towards the ocean, forming an impregnable barrier to the sandy element, while the grateful soil it guards brings forth its produce almost spontaneously, sparing the oppressed and indolent population the toil of the plough, and demanding only from them the scattering of the seed, which, unaided, in a short time it converts to a rich and luxuriant harvest.

I examined many of the specimens from the petrified forest, all as hard as marble and extremely heavy, but invariably, in the most minute detail, preserving the character of the wood. The bark and cracks appeared as natural as if their nature was

unchanged, while the roots which I saw in several large masses retained all their original character in a very astonishing degree, every knot and vein being distinctly visible.

In the afternoon, G. went out with a party of gentlemen to visit the Lunatic Asylum. I had always avoided these dwellings of those afflicted with the greatest of all human ills, and could not be persuaded to make an exception on this occasion; I can, therefore, only offer a second-hand description of an establishment that appears materially to differ from any of the same kind in Europe, and which, from my husband's account, must be the most disgusting and heart-rending scene imaginable. The cells are ranged round a small square open court: before entering this, every visitor is obliged to buy a certain quantity of bread-cakes, to be distributed amongst the inmates, half a cake for each. These cells have more the appearance of cages for wild beasts than the abodes of suffering human beings. The front consists of a grating of strong iron bars, looking into the court; through

this the gazer beholds the unfortunate inmates, generally squatting on the ground, as the place is not high enough for them to stand upright. They are, almost in every instance, entirely without clothing, and neither their persons nor their prisons appear ever to undergo ablution of any kind, but are in the most abject state of filth and wretchedness.

There are about fourteen of these dens; and all, when G. visited them, contained one or more patients. Several of the wretched creatures had a thick iron chain fastened round the neck, which, coming through the grating of the window, entered that of his next-door neighbour, to whom it was attached in a similar manner. They were thus chained together, and the weakest or the quietest became the sport of a fellow-prisoner, who, being stronger or more turbulent, might draw him by main force to the extreme end of his grating. It is difficult to imagine any thing more horrible than this, or more calculated to drive even madness madder.

Several of the patients were talking in the wild incoherent strains peculiar to their malady, and endeavoured to attract the attention of their visitors; while others, on the contrary, appeared to have nothing whatever the matter with them, and shrunk with shame, at being seen in such a degrading position, into the darkest and most remote corners.

The bread taken in by the visitors was thrown into their cages upon the dirty floor, just as if it had been given to so many bears or monkeys. Some of them caught hold of it, and began to eat voraciously, while others left it neglected. There was one poor creature who had made a sort of basket-work against the window, in which he had shut himself up, leaving only a small opening to admit food. His history, probably, was a curious one.

In a dark room, differing from those I have already described, was a poor maniac, apparently in the highest pitch of frenzy. He was chained tightly down to the ground, and was struggling and roaring in a

frightful manner. None of the patients in the asylum seemed to have reached the age of forty. G. returned home quite disgusted with what he had seen; and I congratulated myself upon not having been one of the party.

CHAPTER IX.

Narrow Streets—Bright Eyes—Gardens—Doves—Giraffes—Gazelles—Pelicans—French Artist—Paper Impressions of Hieroglyphics—French Discovery—The Artist "à la Turque"—Coffee—Slave-Boy—Pipes—Inlaid Blades—Drawings of M. Prisse—French Gardens—Sherbet.

CHAPTER IX.

July 3d.—We left the hotel early in the afternoon, and bent our steps in the first instance towards some gardens, situated within the walls, and not very far distant. The street leading to the gate was so narrow as not even to admit the passage of my donkey-chair; I consequently was obliged to abandon it, and mount G.'s donkey instead, much to the amusement of some pretty, laughing, bright-eyed girls, who peeped at us from their lattices above, and seemed delighted at the whole process, from my getting out of my chair to the moment I was safely seated on the animal's back. The presence, too, of the gentlemen, whose attention, of course, was immediately attracted towards them, did not appear to lessen their

enjoyment. But their gratification was of short duration, for in a few seconds a frightful crone presented herself at the window, and making an angry gesture, the bright faces vanished, while a wrinkled old Moos'-lim, of some seventy years, and I conclude the owner of the fair damsels, provokingly stationed himself in their place, where he remained firmly rooted, with a lowering brow, until we had passed on.

The gardens were very extensive, and studded throughout with date, olive, and pomegranate-trees; amongst these hundreds of long-tailed doves, many similar to those I had often seen in the jungles of Ceylon, and which also appear to be indigenous here, were flying about from bough to bough, almost within our grasp.

The path we followed was covered over with a thick vine trellis, loaded with clusters of, as yet, unripe fruit, and barely lofty enough to admit my passing under it while mounted on the donkey. At one spot, near a covered fountain, that was throwing forth its waters with a melodious murmur,

we came upon a bevy of fair Egyptians: they were all, with the exception of two, who appeared to be chaperons, young girls of thirteen or fourteen, and unmarried, as we saw by their white silk hhab'arahs. They were laughing, talking, and peeping at us through the trees, shewing as much of their pretty faces as they dared.

At length we arrived at the object of our visit, the stable of some fine giraffes, which we were anxious to see in their native clime. It was situated at the extremity of the garden, and occupied one side of a large open court. We entered the stable, and were allowed to go quite close to the pretty creatures. They were very tame and gentle, feeding out of our hands, and following us about wherever we went. I threw some clover on the ground, and it was curious to see the difficulty they had to reach it, being obliged to stretch their long forelegs far apart before they could lower their heads sufficiently. They were three in number, and all much finer and larger than those exhibited in the Zoological Gardens. They

reminded me more of one I saw some years ago in the Jardin des Plantes, at Paris. But here they were all life and frolic, their coats beautifully glossy, shewing their leopard-like skins to the greatest advantage, and their bright eyes shining fresh from the desert.

An Italian gentleman, who has travelled much through the deserts of Nubia and the north of Egypt, the native countries of these graceful animals, tells me that he has often met them; and there, although free to rove over trackless plains of unbounded liberty, where probably they had never seen the face of man, they appeared quite gentle. My informant, who lived several years at Senaar, in the employment of Mohammed Ali, says they abound in that neighbourhood, and seldom herd more than three or four together; often a pair of old ones are to be seen with several of their young, of different ages, accompanying them.

In the outer court were some other inhabitants of the desert, which may well dispute the palm of grace and beauty with the gentle

cameleopards — I mean the elegant gazelles. They were skipping and prancing about on all sides. Their delicate little legs, well-proportioned bodies, and large sparkling black eyes, are altogether perfection. They exist in immense numbers throughout Egypt, and the hunt of the gazelle is described as being very exciting. The keenness of their vision and the fleetness of their movements make it difficult to start them nearer than 500 yards. Greyhounds are the dogs used for this sport. The gazelles are usually found concealed in the green tufts of the desert, and are excessively shy.

Several large pelicans that were walking about in the same yard, and appeared very tame, came close up to us; but they were not so friendly as they seemed, for G. having held out his hand to one of them, it immediately seized him by the wrist, and gave a very severe bite, which drew blood.

After leaving the gardens we went to the house of Monsieur Prieste, a French artist,

who has lived several years in Egypt, and made a great number of original drawings. We were shewn up stairs into his studio; and while waiting for him remarked a great number of large sheets of white paper, with raised impressions of inscriptions and hieroglyphics upon them. Mons. Prieste afterwards explained to us that they were stamps he had taken from the originals, upon which the paper, being pressed while in a humid state of course, retained the fac-simile. It is an admirable plan of copying these mystic hieroglyphics for the examination of the learned, who have not opportunities of studying the originals.

M. Prieste had taken an immense number of them at different times. These, he said, were impressions from some inscriptions and engravings on stone lately discovered at Thebes, and purchased for a large sum of money by the French government, as they were supposed to relate to the earliest origin of the Signs of the Zodiac; and it was expected some important discoveries would be made from them. But since they have

been transported to Cairo, it has been found they are of a much more recent date than was at first imagined, and are, consequently, of little value.

Monsieur Prieste received us quite in the Oriental style, and was himself, in common with all Europeans who reside in the East, dressed *à la Turque*, wearing a pair of moustaches and a beard, whose thickness and length must excite the envy of many a "true believer." As soon as we were seated, and the first compliments over, he gave the usual signal of clapping the hands, and was immediately answered by a slave with coffee, served in very diminutive china cups, each being let into another of filigreed metal. According to the Turkish ideas of politeness, the master of the house was served before any of his guests. The beverage was extremely thick and strong, and also, in order to suit, as it was supposed, our European palate, proportionably sweet. The Orientals drink it without either milk or sugar.

We were all struck by the little slave-boy

who handed round the coffee. He appeared about twelve or thirteen years old, and had one of the sweetest and most intelligent countenances I ever saw, notwithstanding he was almost jet black. I could not help inquiring his history, which proved rather an interesting one, as it shews the footing of slaves in this country. Monsieur Prieste said the boy had been with him about three years; and the way he came into his possession was as follows: — Being one day in the slave-market, where the boy was offered for sale amongst many others, he thought he looked so clever and pretty that he took a great fancy to him, and inquired his price, which was equivalent to about 12*l.* of our money. He immediately purchased him, and then wrote a certificate declaring his freedom, which he gave to the boy, telling him he was no longer a slave, that he was at liberty, and might go where he liked.

The boy, instead of appearing pleased, turned round with a most disconsolate countenance, and said, "My father, do I not belong to you? Where am I to go if you

abandon me? Let me follow you, and I will do all I can to serve you. I am your slave — do not forsake me." Monsieur Prieste then took him home, and has kept him ever since. He has instructed him in reading and writing, and the boy waits upon him, making his coffee and lighting his pipe.

Pipes were now handed round, and the gentlemen took a lesson in Turkish smoking. Some of these shib'ooks are highly ornamented, but those of to-day were simple cherry-sticks, with amber mouth-pieces; they were thus easily wetted every now and then with a damp sponge, which cools the smoke as it passes up, and prevents the amber from becoming too hot for the mouth. The pipes were full two yards long; the tobacco was very highly perfumed.

Monsieur Prieste shewed us some beautiful sword and dagger blades, of Arab and Turkish workmanship; the steel of all was finely tempered; many of them were inlaid and exceedingly costly. The greatest treat he reserved for the last, namely, his own

exquisite drawings. He spread before us several portfolios-full, and they were all, whether landscape or figure, subjects full of interest; the scenes were taken from this country, where the artist has so long sojourned. He has succeeded admirably in catching that peculiarly soft and voluptuous hue which is thrown over every object in nature in the fertile plains of Lower Egypt, and that dazzling glare of light which pervades the desert and all approaching its confines. The singular interest and beauty of these drawings made me regret more than ever not having visited some of the venerable originals, such as the ruins of Thebes, &c.

We took leave of Monsieur Prieste, promising ourselves the pleasure of returning soon again to his studio; but as we had still a few more hours of daylight, we rode to some public gardens situated just outside one of the town-gates, and known by the name of the French Gardens; though I cannot conceive why, as there is nothing in them that, in the remotest degree, reminds

one of "la belle France" of the Parisians. On the contrary, all around proclaims the land of Egypt, from the domes and minarets that peep above the walls, to the date-trees that grow within, shading a modest kiosk. The walks were covered over with trellises of jessamine and myrtle, while the beds were blushing with the crimson flower of the pomegranate.

We seated ourselves near the kiosk, and despatched our servants for sherbet. There are about fifty different varieties of this delicious beverage, upon which the sober Moos'lims appear to have concentrated all their culinary skill. We were regaled this evening with some rosolio, distilled from roses and lemons; it was delightfully cool and refreshing.

CHAPTER X.

Torch-bearers — The Streets at Night — Old Cairo — Ferry-boat — The Nile — Bucksheish — Arab Huts — Adventure — Door'ah — Immense Number of Rats — First Impression of the Pyramids — Importunate Arabs — Ascent — View from the Summit — Inscribing Names on these Monuments — Site of Memphis — Pyramids of Sakhara — Sphynx — Descent — Antiquities — Large Hawk — Interior of the Pyramids — Gallery — King's Chamber — Sarcophagus — Second Chamber — Davidson's Chamber — Paintings — Petrifactions — The Sphynx — Return to Cairo — Breeding Stud at Shoobra — Arabians — Anecdote.

CHAPTER X.

July 4th.—G. got up at two o'clock this morning, and started for the Pyramids; I was too ill to accompany him. The following is the account of what he saw, written by himself after his return:—

After having fixed two or three times to make an excursion to the Pyramids of Gizeh, and as often been obliged to put it off, I at length started one morning at two o'clock, accompanied by my servant Carlos, and a man to carry our provisions, each of the three mounted on donkeys. As the night was very dark, I was preceded through the streets by a torch-bearer; the torch was literally nothing but a round iron grate fixed at the end of a long pole, which

the man replenished with wood from time to time, as required, carrying the fuel in a bag fastened round his waist.

I had procured the countersign from the consul the evening before, in order that I might be permitted to pass the guards and gates without interruption, for Cairo is closely shut during the night. The password was "Mamforloot." To my surprise it was not demanded, but, on the contrary, the gates were thrown open for us as soon as we approached, it being (as I afterwards understood) supposed that I was a Bey in the Pasha's service. At all events, the sentries were so little vigilant that we were allowed to gallop straight through the town. We turned round the sharp corners of the narrow streets with unabated pace, not without danger of stepping upon numbers of prostrate and sleeping human beings, who were lying about in all directions, for the poorer inhabitants of the city are houseless, and have no other home than the public thoroughfares. It is on this account the torch-bearers become so necessary.

Our road ran through Old Cairo. There are two ways of going, one down a line of streets, and the other over the open space we traversed in our visit to Rhoda, and which the Pasha has cleared of old tombs and buildings within the last two years. Just as we had got so far, the man whom I had hired to carry our provisions turned restive, and refused to proceed at the pace we were going, namely, the top of *Cairo-donkey-speed*—no despicable one. As he was accustomed to the work, I considered it a case of mutiny, and dealt with it accordingly, but without avail, for he still kept on stopping and delaying me. At length I turned him off, and carried the things myself, much to his surprise; for, having come so far, he thought he had it all his own way for the rest of the journey.

At length we reached Old Cairo, where we were to cross the river. Here we found numbers of ferry-boats, with their owners fast asleep in them. We engaged one, and, notwithstanding its small size, all our party, consisting of myself and Carlos, the ferry-

man, a couple of well-dressed Turks, who had taken up their position for the night, and were slumbering on as unconcerned, and, apparently, as unconscious, as if the boat contained no other inmates. Two donkey-boys, and as many donkeys, were stowed in it. The animals were ranged across, and it was ludicrous to see the fear that was depicted on their very grave countenances as the boat rolled from side to side.

Our course lay a little down the Nile, to the village of Gizeh on the opposite bank. Before being allowed to come on board we had paid the last fud'dah* of our fare, but on landing were not the less importuned by the never-ceasing demand for "bucksheish."

It was still very dark, and we found great difficulty in picking our way through the mounds of corn and heaps of straw that were waiting on the banks of the river for transportation, together with the sleeping overseers appointed to guard them, and in threading our path through the crowded

* The Egyptian fud'dah is equal to about a quarter of a farthing.

Arab huts. These habitations are the most curious attempts at architecture that can be conceived. They are all constructed of mud, and of an oval shape, about four feet in height, and five or six in diameter; of course too low for the inhabitants to stand upright in. On one side is a hole of about two feet square, for them to crawl in at, and another at the top to admit light and air. Whole families live in these huts.

At length we found ourselves fairly on the path that runs through another Arab village, in the direction of the Pyramids. We had not proceeded far before some dark object suddenly appeared in the obscurity before us, and as quickly vanished. The donkey-boys slunk towards us, and the animals cocked their ears, instinctively closing together. A moment afterwards a man, fully equipped, with a long lance, sword, pistols, and the warlike accoutrements common to the country, made his appearance, and challenged us in a stentorian voice. My servant answered him almost in a whis-

per, and, after a short parley, we were allowed to proceed.

During the whole time this scene was enacting, I had not the remotest idea of what was the meaning of it, excepting that Carlos, to satisfy me, said "*Bad man.*" The story, however, soon became apparent, for, a few yards further on, we came upon several camels, loaded with water-melons, and other fruit. As soon as they had caught sight of us they had made the animals lie down, thinking that we might be in quest of them, for these men were noted marauders, in the act of possessing themselves of the produce of others' industry. Had we been what they first supposed us to be, they intended to have sold their lives or liberty as dear as desperate men usually do.

By this time dawn was just breaking, but still it was not clear enough to distinguish the Pyramids. The dew was falling very heavily; my hat was quite wet with it. Our road lay through large patches

of a very strong-growing corn, called "door'ah," the common food of the lower classes, but considered hard fare by others. Its leaves and stem something resemble Indian corn, but the flour and grain are quite different.

The soil was evidently a rich deposit of mud from the river, and in great cracks, like the bed of a dry pond; many of these were so large and deep as materially to interrupt the progress of our donkeys, who were obliged, in consequence, to go at a very slow pace.

Hundreds of rats were popping in and out of these cracks at every step. I looked for wild-flowers, but there were none, excepting the thistle, which appeared to vie in luxuriance with the crops.

At length the mist cleared away, and the Pyramids were full in sight, and close before us. By this time we had been above an hour crossing the Valley of the Nile, and I gladly hailed the sand that precedes, for about a mile, the eminence on which they stand. Far from being disappointed, as I

have heard many travellers assert themselves to have been, I was struck with awe and amazement at the immense height and size of these colossal specimens of architecture, losing nothing, even by comparison, with the range of the Mokattam mountains not very far distant from them.

My attention was now called by my donkey struggling through some very deep sand, and the shouts of my donkey-boy urging it on. At the same time a large party of Arabs, none of whom could boast of more than one eye, came forward, and vociferously demanded to be employed. I engaged one of them as a guide, thinking to get rid of their importunities, but I was mistaken, and I then threatened the first who should touch me or my donkey with a sharp blow from the stick I held in my hand; nothing, however, succeeded in quieting them, until I had really carried my last threat into execution. The receiver talked a great deal, and appeared very angry, but, the laugh being against him, he turned and went away. To this decisive commencement

on my part I attribute the little incivility I afterwards received while ascending the Pyramids, for, from all accounts, the Arabs about them are a very saucy set.

When I had climbed the rock that forms the foundation, or platform, upon which these stupendous piles are erected, the sun had not appeared above the horizon, and I determined to commence the ascent of the Great Pyramid without waiting for some friends who had preceded me the night before, and slept in a neighbouring cavern. As soon as I arrived at the first step I was again surrounded by a crowd of Arabs, pressing me to accept their services, and forcing their assistance in a most disagreeable way. However, I persisted in refusing all aid, though my dragoman declared the danger and difficulty were too great for any but an Arab.

I had constantly heard of the great height of the steps, and that they were more than four feet deep, therefore was much surprised to find them so shallow as they really are, although they varied greatly one from the other. The masonry is very irregular,

yet the general line is pretty accurately kept. Half-way up, where a cave is formed by the removal of some stones, I paused to take breath, and, for the first time turning round, found myself much higher than I had imagined. It is rather awful to look down, as the descent is far too precipitous to afford the slightest chance of recovery to any one making a false step.

After taking a hasty glance at the surrounding country, still enveloped in the morning mist, I started again, and found less difficulty, as the steps now were more convenient, and continued so to the summit, a platform of about thirty feet square.

The large blocks of stone lying scattered about, and irregularly placed, shew at once the unfinished state of the structure, and look probably as fresh as the day the undertaking was abandoned. This is not the case with the other parts of the building. Innumerable names were cut about in every direction, and I should certainly have added mine to the number, only that I had no

knife with me. It is, I know, the fashion to declaim against this practice; and when it disfigures an ornamental object (such as Pompey's Pillar, for instance) I perfectly agree in reprobating it: but in such a case and place as this, I consider it as nothing more than writing one's name in the travellers' book at an hotel, for the information, and, it may be, the gratification, of future comers. Certain it is that I looked every where in the hopes of finding the name of an acquaintance or friend; but although I saw English names in abundance, I found, with regret, none whose possessors I knew.

During my ascent, some little girls, from ten to thirteen years of age, kept constantly running near me, sometimes at my side, and sometimes on the step above, offering me cold water in the fantastic porous vessels of the country, each with a bunch of the sweet-scented flower of the hhen'na in its mouth. The ease with which these little creatures scampered up the steps was quite surprising, while I found it difficult enough to keep on at one steady pace.

On looking down, I saw my friends beneath; we hailed each other and conversed freely, although certainly in rather a loud key: but not a word was lost. This I had not supposed possible.

The view of the desert and country that lay stretched like a map before me, in the grey dawn of morning, was fraught with singularity and interest. On one side were scattered remains of buildings supposed to have been sepulchral monuments, but too much buried in sand for me to make out much of their form. The site of Memphis is thought to be in this direction. The pyramids of Sakhara were seen in the distance, while beyond, the desert stretched as far as the eye could reach. In the opposite direction was the luxuriant Delta, and the Valley of the Nile, with the river winding in elegant curves amongst the fertile plains; while Cairo, with its mosques, minarets, and citadel, bounded by the Desert of Suez, over which we had so lately traversed, completed the picture.

Immediately beneath me rose the two

next pyramids of Gizeh. I could perceive the entrance into Cephrenes, the nearest, whose summit is covered with cement, finishing suddenly as if broken. The colossal Sphynx rears its head in this direction. All in the immediate vicinity was bleak and drear; nothing but eternal sand was to be seen, without a green shrub to break the distance, or serve as a point of comparison with the surrounding objects. Several hawks were flying about, and I saw a jackal skulking into one of the pyramids.

Just before I left, the sun rose upon this desolate scene, throwing long shadows around, and adding greatly to the effect.

I found the descent much more difficult and inconvenient than the ascent, as the legs get weak and tired towards the end. It would be dangerous for a giddy head to attempt it, for, while dropping from step to step, the entire depth in all its immensity lies full in view. To turn round with the face to the building would take four times as long, and be far more tiring.

To lose no time, I mounted my donkey,

and rode to the entrance of the chambers. I was very much struck with the enormous size of the blocks of stone surrounding it. Here I found my friends, who had passed the previous night in the cave, and who loudly complained of the torments they had undergone from the attacks of the myriads of sand-flies and musquitos, which, with the addition of the suffocating heat, had rendered sleep next to impossible. We sat down for some time, enjoying the distant view of the city of Grand Cairo, stretching immediately before us, and examining the different antiquities brought for sale by a horde of Arabs, such as the little quaint blue figures, pieces of mummy-cloth, &c. &c. found in the neighbourhood.

An Arab shewed us a large hawk, that he had caught in a hole in the pyramid. One of my friends took it from the man who was holding it, when it immediately buried its talons and beak deep into his wrist, inflicting a wound he had reason to remember during the remainder of his stay in Egypt.

Having sufficiently rested myself, I now

engaged four men as guides and torch-bearers, and started to explore the interior of the great pyramid of Cheops. From the entrance we descended for a short distance, when the passage became suddenly lower and narrower; it could not have been more than three feet six in height; I was obliged to stoop almost double, and found the greatest assistance in leaning my hand upon the back of an Arab who preceded me. The dust was almost suffocating. This gallery was a steep ascent, and continued so until it terminated in a large rocky cavity. The effect of the lights thrown by the torches, as the bearers one after the other climbed to the top, where the next passage commences, was very beautiful and singular. I followed them, and found the aperture still smaller than the previous one, and equally on the ascent.

The King's Chamber, which we now reached, is a long parallelogram, with a vaulted roof; the sides are black, and have the appearance of being highly polished. The blocks of stone of which it is composed

are extraordinary from their immense magnitude. The sarcophagus is quite plain, and devoid of ornament. I knocked off a piece from it with some difficulty; it is of the red Egyptian granite.

In the second chamber we came to I was shewn a hole in the ground, the entrance to Davidson's Chamber; but my throat, owing to the dust, was too dry to proceed; and I must confess I was disappointed by the small size of those I had seen, and therefore, declining to descend, I retraced my steps, which from being constantly on the descent, I found a more difficult task than on my entry.

I next mounted my donkey, and rode to the Sphynx. In my way I passed several tombs, the interior of one was adorned with some fresco paintings; there were also two small pyramids, where a number of mummies have been found at different times, all in a perfect state of preservation, as I was informed by Mr. Raven, who was employed by Colonel Vyse during his excavations. Mr. R. shewed me several curious petrifactions: amongst

others a reed about a foot long, which he found embedded in one of the stones of the pyramids. I observed large masses of petrified shells in many of the blocks.

An abrupt descent brought me to the Sphynx. The stones composing it are perfectly astonishing from their size: the head is in three pieces, the nose and one of the eyes are disfigured. Between its extended paws, now completely embedded in sand, is the entrance to a chamber, from which it is said there is a communication with the pyramid of Cephrenes. Mr. Raven tells me, that Colonel Vyse laid this chamber open, but the constant driftings of the sand have entirely filled it up again, leaving no trace of it perceptible.

Having seen the Sphynx, I rode to the cave where travellers usually rest, and where my friends were assembled at breakfast; and having enjoyed a hearty meal, we departed, surrounded by a whole host of unfortunate beggars, who had turned out from the neighbouring villages, each endeavouring to extract money on various pretexts.

A very pleasant ride brought us, by the same way we came, to the river.

Old Cairo on the opposite bank, so silent when I passed through it in the early morning, was now all life and bustle. Immense piles of garden produce, such as melons and vegetables, were exposed on its quay, and it was a very curious and amusing spectacle to see large numbers of camels crouched down to receive their loads. Stacks of grain and cotton were laid up in store, ready for transport down the river, for the supply of foreign markets. Here and there I passed some wealthy Armenian merchant, smoking his long pipe (which almost touched the ground) from the back of his sleek and well-fed donkey, caparisoned in gold and velvet, followed by his syce.

I repaired to the hotel, delighted with my excursion, and not a little pleased with my donkey, which had carried me the whole way there and back, upwards of twenty-four miles, without slacking its pace, or appearing the least fatigued.

In the evening of the same day I went to

visit the Pasha's breeding-stud at Shoobra: the road runs through some very pretty olive groves and shady lanes. The stables occupy an immense pile of building, situated on an open tract, and forming a hollow square, approached by four handsome iron gates guarded by sentries. Upon applying for permission to enter, an old Turk in uniform, with a very large gold-headed stick of office in his hand, and followed by three attendants, admitted us, and proceeded to shew the different parts of the establishment.

In the first stable were more than one hundred pure and high-caste Arab mares, with their colt foals; the latter were perfectly tame, yet full of life and play. The next stable was like the former, but appropriated to mares with fillies. We then successively passed through the stables of yearlings, two-year olds, and three-year olds, at which age they are drafted into the army or for other uses. I asked if any were ever sold, and I was contemptuously answered that the Pasha makes *presents* when he chooses.

The last department we were shewn consisted of the sires, powerful short-legged Arabians of the highest caste, shewing a great deal of blood. Amongst others was a white horse, with one of the finest heads I ever saw, large nostrils, broad forehead, and immense black eyes. He was snorting and pawing up the ground, and I was cautioned not to go near him. I remarked that his neck and fore-parts were covered all over with scars, and on asking the reason, received the following account:

During the late war in Syria, a small band of Arabs, headed by a sheykh of renowned valour, all of whom had devoted themselves to victory or death, rushed in phalanx, with the sworn intention of cutting their way through the centre of the Pasha's camp, or perishing in the attempt. Overpowered by numbers, they were cut off one by one; the sheykh alone remained: but he dashed onward in his mad career, dealing death around him, until his own head was severed from his body. His panting horse, covered with innumerable sabre wounds, now dashed

at the slayer of his master, tore him to the ground, and crushed him under his feet. This faithful animal was taken captive, and sent to the Pasha's stables, as a horse of the most tried courage.

After bestowing the usual bucksheish on our friend with the gold-headed stick, we mounted our donkeys and returned.

CHAPTER XI.

Invitation to a Hharee'm—French Lady Interpretess—Tame Gazelles—Hharee'm of Mochtah Bey—Description of the Apartments—Beautiful Slaves—Principal Lady of the Hharee'm—Conversation—Adopted Child—Pet Dog—Female Curiosity—Nubian Nurse—Turkish Love of Ornament—Coffee—Pipes—Slaves.

CHAPTER XI.

On G.'s return I was still nursing myself in my room, where I intended to have remained two or three days, when a long-expected invitation arrived for me to visit a hharee'm; and, ill as I was, I determined I would not in one day be disappointed of seeing two things I had so long desired to be acquainted with. Accordingly shaking off my indisposition as well as I could, I got up, and decked myself out in all the finest clothes I could collect from my travelling wardrobe. I rescued a blue silk bonnet, trimmed with roses, from the depth of a trunk, where it had lain crushed double; and having covered my fingers with rings, and my person with all the chains, brooches, and bracelets I possessed,

prepared to depart. I mounted my donkey-chair, and, attended by the dragoman Mohammed, proceeded first to the house of a French lady who had offered to present me, and act as my interpretess at the hharee'm of Mochtah Bey. She was the daughter of a Frenchwoman, who had been employed several years by the Pasha's and other influential hharee'ms, to select and purchase silks and satins for the fair recluses: at the present moment she was in Paris, preparing for a new importation. My friend the daughter, who was born and bred in Egypt, which she had never quitted, had just married a young Italian.

On arriving at the house she lived in, I mounted a dark narrow staircase leading to her apartments, and was received on the landing-place by her husband, a good-looking young man, who conducted me into the sitting-room; where I found the pretty Frenchwoman dressed *à la Grèque*, squatted on a divan, in the Eastern fashion. The costume, consisting of a tight bodice of green satin embroidered with silver, suited

her pretty figure, and shewed it off to the best advantage. Her petticoat was full and short, displaying a pair of white silk trousers confined at the ancles. She had very fine black eyes, with an intelligent countenance; and her long raven tresses were hanging in a profusion of small plaits, entwined with silver cord and riband reaching nearly to the ground.

After a few introductory speeches, sherbet was handed round; it was by far the most delicious I had tasted. My fair hostess then retired to equip herself for riding; leaving me with her husband, and a pair of beautiful tame gazelles, that were skipping round the room, playing a variety of graceful gambols. It was singular to see those airy children of the desert become so docile and domestic; they must have been captured very young.

Presently the door opened, and Madame, enveloped in the Egyptian to'b and hhab'arah, entered the room, ready to accompany me. I resumed my "*chaise à porteur*," while her husband assisted her to mount the high saddle of her donkey, that

was waiting in the court-yard, with an attendant at its head. She very composedly seated herself *à la Egyptienne*, namely, astride, and, passing on before me, led the way.

We traversed a great many narrow streets similar to those I have before described, and in the space of about half an hour stopped before a large wooden gate, which, upon a signal being given, was opened by a slave. On entering we found ourselves in a spacious court-yard overlooked by numerous windows, closely and elaborately latticed in various patterns of highly carved woodwork. Here we were received by a richly dressed eunuch. We dismounted, and, leaving our donkeys and attendants, followed him up a short flight of marble stairs and through a curtained door, that opened into another court paved with marble and surrounded by a lofty colonnade. Five or six female slaves met us at the entrance. My friend now stepped on before me to announce my approach, but soon beckoned me to follow.

We passed by a door leading out of the court into a room on the ground-floor, lighted by two windows. It was a very spacious, lofty apartment, divided into two parts, called doorcka'ah and Iceewa'n; the floor of the latter was raised six or seven inches higher than the former. The doorcka'ah, into which the door we entered at opened, was beautifully paved with black and white marble, intersected by complicated patterns of polished red tile. In the centre was a fountain, throwing up its sparkling jets nearly to the ceiling, and then falling into a shallow basin, inlaid with exquisite mosaic work of pietra dura, spreading a delicious coolness around. The walls of this apartment were cased half-way up with inlaid marbles of brilliant colours, worked into tasteful designs. On one side were some marble slabs, supported upon arches and light pilasters of the same material, ornamented in a similar style with the basin of the fountain. Several silver vessels were standing upon these costly shelves.

The leewa'n, or highest portion of the room, was covered with very fine matting, and surrounded by divans composed of mattresses slightly raised from the ground, and backed with cushions supported against the walls. They were covered with embossed crimson and yellow satin, giving a very handsome effect to the whole. The walls of the leewa'n were quite plain.

The ceilings of both were very singular and beautiful, but that over the doorcka'ah was the most ornamented. The first was composed of carved beams about a foot apart, and richly gilt, the intervening spaces being painted in various colours and patterns, having an exceedingly elegant appearance. But the eye was soon attracted to the richer half, the most striking, though, perhaps, not so chaste. Here, instead of the beams, a number of thin strips of wood were nailed upon the planks, forming the most curious and complicated, although perfectly regular, designs. These strips were gilt, and the intervening spaces painted red, blue, and black. It had altogether a highly

ornamental and pleasing effect, and the apartment being lofty, it appeared, at first sight, almost like a basso-relievo of gems.

Having now attempted to give an idea of the room we were received in, and which I had ample leisure to survey during my visit, I must turn to its fair occupants. Seated cross-legged on a pile of violet-coloured satin cushions, that were placed on the pavement close to the fountain, was a beautiful and majestic-looking woman. Although she must have been at least forty, not a wrinkle was to be detected in her fine clear skin. Her features were remarkably handsome, her teeth perfect and very white, while her dark-blue eyes shone forth with benignity. I never saw a countenance so dignified, and, at the same time, so sweet. Her hair was entirely concealed by a rich embroidered handkerchief, or far'oo'dee'yeh, bound round the head-dress or turboo'sh. She was dressed in a shirt composed of a kind of silk gauze, white as snow, and a pair of very wide trousers, of the same material, fastened round the waist, and confined a

little below the knee, but sufficiently long to hang down to the feet. A short vest, called 'an'ter'ee, reaching just below the waist, and provided with loose open sleeves, completed her costume. Her only ornaments were five rows of very large-sized pearls, suspended from her neck.

This lady was the widowed mother of Mochtah Bey's wife. Her son (whose name has escaped my memory) is immensely rich and powerful, owning one-third of the houses and gardens in Grand Cairo, and she herself is a relation of the Pasha. She did not rise to receive us (as she was our senior in years), but she touched my hand with her right hand, pressed it on her bosom, and then raised it to her lips and forehead. She would not hear of my taking a seat on the divan, as she said she knew the European custom, but despatched a pretty Georgian slave for a green satin chair (the only one in the house), upon which she made me sit down close to her.

She then asked me a variety of questions, spoken through my French friend; such as

"How old are you?" "Are you married?" "Were you ever married before?" "How old is your husband?" "How tall is he?" "What is the colour of his hair and his eyes?" "Is he kind to you?" "Has he any more wives?" "Why does he let you ride through the streets without a veil?" "Have you any children?" "What made you come so far from home?" &c. &c. I satisfied her curiosity as well as I could, and she appeared very much amused with my answers. Her voice was peculiarly mild and sweet, and she uttered her various interrogations with as much grace and politeness as if she were carrying on the most polished and intellectual conversation. She spoke in Arabic, as my companion did not understand Turkish.

After the first tide of queries, she told me her daughter would soon be there, as *she* was particularly anxious to make the acquaintance of an English lady. I now had a moment's leisure to look around at the groups of beautiful slaves that were standing about the room in various attitudes, laughing

and pointing at my dress. They were principally Georgians and Circassians, many of them exceedingly lovely, with fair complexions and dark eyes. All were dressed in the most costly materials, generally of gaudy colours; and two or three of the prettiest wore very handsome ornaments of gold filigree, and precious stones. Their dresses were much handsomer than those of their mistresses; but I believe it is the delight of the Turkish ladies to deck out their favourite slaves in all their most valuable clothes and trinkets, while they themselves, excepting on particular occasions, dress very simply.

At length the daughter (the mistress of the house) made her appearance, and a lovely creature she was. Her complexion was the whitest and most brilliant that can be conceived; her forehead was lofty, and entirely exposed, for her auburn hair, escaping from her "far'oo'dee'yeh" in careless plaits and tresses down her back and shoulders, was, according to the Turkish fashion, cut close round the face. Her teeth, which

she constantly displayed through her rosy laughing lips, were beautifully even, and transparently white; while the effect produced by her magnificent eyes, of the deepest and softest blue, was heightened by the coquettish pencilling of khol with which both the upper and under lids and eyebrows were stained. This gives a depth and shadow to the intensity of their beauty, in the same way that an appropriate setting enhances the brilliancy of a diamond.

Her dress was nearly similar to her mother's, excepting that her 'an'ter'ee was cut in such a manner as to leave her neck uncovered, save by the slight folds of her low gauze shirt, entirely displaying her shape. Her arms were bare, and perfect models of beauty, both in form and colour, while the small taper fingers of her pretty hands were tipped with the rosy dye of the hhen'na.

She advanced towards me with the peculiar waddling walk of all Turkish ladies, and, having saluted me in the same way her mother had done before, squatted herself

down on a similar pile of cushions in another part of the room, inviting me to sit close to her.

Again I had to answer the same string of questions, to which were added multitudes of others upon England and English customs—"Whether I had ever seen any house so handsome as hers?" "Whether I could read and write?" and a variety of similar things. Having satisfied her curiosity, she told me that her husband, Mochtah Bey, was a very handsome man, and she named his height and the length of his beard; that he was very learned, and that Mohammed Ali had sent him to England, where he remained a year; and that when he came back again he would no longer eat with his fingers, but had tables and chairs made, and used a knife and fork; but as he died a short time ago, she had parted with all these useless incumbrances, and was soon going to marry again. She appeared exceedingly proud of being able to embroider a little: this is considered a great accomplishment amongst Eastern ladies.

Her great grief, she said, was that she had never been a mother; but, in order to console herself in some measure, she was adopting a poor child that had been taken out of the streets, and was bringing it up as her own. She now despatched a slave for the child (an infant), which was brought in by the wet-nurse its kind protectress had purchased for it: it was a little girl of about eight or ten months old; I thought it very ugly, and it was miserably and shabbily dressed. As soon, however, as it entered the room, my lovely hostess took it in her arms, and nursed and played with it as fondly as if it had been her own: it seemed the pet and darling of the whole hharee'm. Presently it began to cry, and there was quite a commotion: the elder lady took out one of the cucumbers from the fruit that was cooling in the fountain, and gave it to the child to suck. I should have thought this was enough to kill it, but all the children here are constantly to be seen nibbling something of the kind.

I find the reason the baby was dressed so

badly proceeded from the fear, common to all Moos'lim mothers, lest fine clothes should attract the Evil Eye.

Another pet of the young Turk's, that struck me as a very extraordinary one for a person of her creed, was a little pug-dog, running about unconstrained all over the apartment, even upon the leewa'n, which is considered sacred, as being the usual place of prayer; but, notwithstanding, this little *piece of uncleanness* was allowed full liberty, and every moment polluted the clothes of his mistress by rubbing up against them. She even patted him several times with her fair hand, and laughed at his barking and antics. I could not understand this incongruity with the faith of the faithful.

The next thing to be done was to inspect minutely every thing I had on: my rings were all scrutinized and admired separately. I wore a black satin gown, and was asked why it was not green, blue, or yellow. I replied, that as I was travelling I could not carry all my wardrobe about with me. My

bracelets were next looked at, then my hands were examined, and all the slaves, one by one, were allowed to peep into my face: one, in particular, a tall, bony-looking Nubian, the most hideous creature I ever saw, who had acted as wet-nurse to my pretty hostess, and was consequently a great favourite, never having seen an European lady before, was so much astonished at me, that after having touched all my clothes, and stared well into my bonnet, she could scarcely be persuaded to move away, and, when she did, seated herself (a privilege she alone enjoyed, without permission) in the corner of the room, fixing her eyes upon me, with a broad grin on her countenance during the whole time I remained.

A very large and handsome brooch I wore particularly attracted the attention of the lady: she begged me to take it off, that she might examine it, and then very quietly fastening it into the folds of her shirt, continued talking upon other subjects. I waited some time, and then, as she did not offer to return it, and I did not feel

at all inclined to present her with it, I represented my fears to my companion, who gently suggested that it was so heavy she feared it would tear the gauze of her chemise, and offered to assist her in unclasping it. She took the hint, although evidently disappointed; and I felt quite sorry that I had not brought something that I prized less, to present her with. Had I done so, she would no doubt have returned the compliment.

During the time we were engaged laughing and talking with the daughter, the mother remained nearly silent, listening to what was going forward, sometimes suggesting a question in her soft harmonious Turkish, that seemed to accord and blend with the musical, trickling of the clear fountain before her. She was delighted at the admiration I bestowed upon the latter, and ordered one of her slaves to shew me how the jet was turned on and off. The cock was concealed in a small chest of inlaid wood, and the water supplied by pipes laid on from the river. A variety of fruits

were placed in the basin to cool, and near it stood a handsome silver tray of porous goblets, such as I have described in a former page, each furnished with a fanciful stopper of the same material.

Two pretty Georgian slaves now came in with coffee they had been preparing, one carrying the coffee-pot, of solid gold, and exceedingly handsome; the other bearing a silver tray, with the requisite number of china cups arranged upon it, large enough only to contain about an ounce and a half of liquid. They had no handles, and each was placed within another cup of delicate gold filigree. These are called "zurfs," and are used to prevent burning the fingers.

According to Eastern etiquette, the ladies of the house were first served, and afterwards their guests. The coffee was extremely strong, and highly perfumed with ambergris; no milk was mixed with it, and no sugar, excepting in the cup destined for me, which was made as sweet as syrup, in order to accommodate, as was supposed, my English taste.

As soon as we had finished sipping our coffee, pipes were brought: one was offered to me, but I begged to decline, explaining that as I had never learnt the accomplishment of smoking, I feared it would choke me, and thus materially interrupt our agreeable conversation. They laughed, and appeared much amused at my ignorance of this, one of their greatest and most refined luxuries. They asked if English ladies never smoked, and, being answered in the negative, shrugged their shoulders with pity, and began to puff away with renewed zest.

Their pipes were quite as long, but rather more slender than those of the men, and exquisitely ornamented in a very costly manner; the mouth-pieces were composed in part of red coral, set in gold, and enriched by agate and jasper, interspersed with precious stones; the pipes are always of cherry-stick, but these were covered with coloured silks interwoven with gold thread; the bowl of each rested in a small silver tray, placed on the floor. The tobacco they employed was

exceedingly mild, and not disagreeable, even to me, who can scarcely bear the smell of a passing cigar.

The idea of a woman smoking conveys immediately to one's mind a feeling of disgust, which it seems impossible to overcome; but my fair hostesses handled their jewelled pipes with as much grace as if they were the wands of a fairy, and performed the whole with so much elegance of manner, that I found myself admiring instead of condemning the practice. The fair young Hanoum looked positively bewitching while inhaling the perfumed weed through her delicate pipe, and, far from engrossing, it appeared only to give zest to her conversation.

After the shib'ooks were exhausted, it was proposed that I should explore the remainder of the house; but as the hour of mid-day prayer was drawing near, its young owner did not accompany us: we were followed, however, by the whole suite of slaves, laughing and dancing around, like a pack of children pleased with a new toy.

In the court-yard we encountered a group of hideous black human beings, tall and bony, with only a small piece of cloth wound round their bodies, and their hair hanging in dishevelled plaits about their faces. Thinking they looked any thing but feminine, and forgetting for a moment where I was, I asked very innocently whether they were men-slaves. The screams of surprise and horror, mingled with laughter, that were raised as soon as this question was translated, were quite deafening: the very idea of a *man* being admitted into these mysterious precincts shocked beyond measure, and yet it equally amused them. They pointed to the eunuch, and assured me he was the only man, excepting the master of the house, when he was alive, who had ever seen them unveiled.

The slaves in question, whose rough appearance had occasioned my mistake, were Abyssinian and Negro women, who acted as menials in the establishment. The only employment of the *white slaves* is to make the coffee, prepare and light the pipes, and

adorn their own persons, as well as those of their mistresses; and consequently a large portion of their time is passed in idleness.

In the court-yard was a well of brackish water, and on one side stood two large jars, daily replenished with water fresh from the Nile.

We now entered a door leading to a flight of stone stairs, conducting to what are, properly speaking, the apartments of the hharee'm. The room where we were received, and which, on account of its coolness, they were then inhabiting, is usually appropriated to the master of the family. The staircase, beautifully clean and white, was built in a winding square, turning every four steps; at the top an ample curtain screened the door of entrance into the principal apartment, from which all the others opened.

This room, called the cka'ah, was of immense dimensions, and must have occupied one half of the house. A portion of the floor was raised on each side, forming two leewa'ns, similar to that I described in

the room below, excepting that these were far handsomer, the floors being covered with magnificent Turkey carpets, and the divans composed of velvet. The ceiling was very lofty, and raised in the centre of the room, between the two leewa'ns; this part was surrounded by wooden lattice-work, and surmounted by a small dome. The windows, shaded by richly carved gratings of woodwork, looked into the outer court, where our donkeys were waiting.

When my chair was discovered, there was a loud outcry of surprise! How could I get into it? Why did I not ride *à la cavalier*, like other ladies? &c. &c.

The cka'ah is the great assembly-room of the whole hharee'm; but as no particular apartments are appropriated for sleeping, the Hanoum mother at present occupied it for that purpose, and her small bedstead of beautiful inlaid wood was standing in the corner. No bed-clothes, or any thing of the kind, were to be seen; they are all carefully removed and folded up as soon as done with, and placed in cupboards, with which

this and many of the other rooms were furnished: these were composed of very curious panel-work of wood, inlaid in a variety of ingenious ways. Above were some narrow shelves, with several pieces of china and plate ranged upon them.

Leading out of the cka'ah were two suites of apartments, consisting of two or three rooms, with a few steps, either up or down, between each: that on the left was furnished with rich yellow satin, and the one on the right with pale blue silk. The principal room in both was square, very spacious, and about fourteen feet in height; they were covered throughout with Turkey carpets, and, but for the absence of tables or anything to supply their place, I might almost have imagined myself in a London or Paris drawing-room. Several handsome mirrors adorned the walls, and upon the universal little wooden shelves stood some beautiful china vases and pots of wax flowers; in one room there was even a French clock of or-molu, brought from Europe by Mochtah Bey.

Each apartment contained a massive service of antique-looking plate, composed of coffee-pots, silver basins, curious-shaped spoons, trays, &c. &c. From every ceiling hung a fine net of singular construction, furnished with pulleys of cotton cord. I was told it was either to catch or guard against the musquitos and flies, but I could not understand exactly how they used it.

As the windows on this side all looked into the garden, they were permitted to be very large, with the lower part only latticed; about two feet of the upper division consisted of painted glass, which gave a very pretty effect: the centre portion of the window was of clear glass.

The last room we were shewn into was to me the most curious and interesting I had seen: it also looked towards the gardens, but was quite distinct from any of the others, and appeared more in the true Turkish style, before Parisian fashions had made any innovation into the recesses of the hharee'm. Rude representations of birds and flowers were painted all over the plastered walls,

and one side of the apartment was wholly occupied by a row of the curious little cupboards I have already spoken of. The windows projected outwards, and were entirely shaded by thick wooden lattice-work of a very heavy pattern, but beautifully and elaborately carved; the top and sides were of coloured glass, and the small ceilings of the projections were painted and inlaid with great art and effect. This was the room originally intended as the guest-chamber, but at present it was occupied by my young hostess, whose bedstead was inlaid throughout with ivory and mother-o'-pearl, similar to the beautiful Bombay boxes; and by the side were her tiny embroidered slippers.

Every one, including my French friend, had taken off their shoes at the entrance of the cka'ah, and walked barefooted through the apartments. I was the only person of the party of whom this ceremony was not exacted.

When we had seen all that was worthy of notice, we went down-stairs again to take our leave, but we found the young Hanoum

at her devotions; and as she could not be interrupted, we waited until they were concluded. She was standing upon the "lee-wa'n," which is generally appropriated as the place of prayer; a small prayer-carpet was spread before her, and a richly worked white lace veil was thrown over her head, reaching nearly to the ground. It is the custom amongst Moos'lim women never to appear in supplication before their Maker unveiled: it has a touching look of modest humility; at least it gave such to the fair worshipper before me. She went through the various evolutions of bowing and prostration, enjoined by her religion, with so much gravity and apparent earnestness, that it inspired me with a feeling of respect for her, that heightened the charm of her beauty.

During all this time the mother, who was still smoking her shib'ook, went on talking and asking us questions about what we thought of the rooms, as if nothing had been going on. At length the prayer was finished, the veil thrown aside, and our pretty friend returned to her cushions, her

mouth still moving as if concluding her devotions.

We now rose to take leave; but she begged us to walk through the garden before our departure. She pressed me, also, to repeat my visit, and told me, that any day I would send them word, I might bring my husband to shew him the garden, and they would look through the lattice-work of their windows at him, as they wished so much to see what he was like. They both rose to bid me adieu, and, after having gone through the same form of touching my hand and then their own bosoms and faces, they accompanied me through the inner courts, paddling along on the cold marble without shoes or stockings. I must here remark, that their feet were very small and pretty; the young one was, perhaps, a *little* too fat, but that is considered a beauty amongst the Turks. The last thing she said to me was, to be sure to bring my husband to the garden.

Thither we now went. It was a large enclosure, surmounted by a high wall, and

abounding with date-trees, but not laid out with much taste; but I could, however, fancy it a paradise to the caged inmates of a hharee'm, who are only allowed to enjoy the pure air unveiled while within its precincts. A bouquet was presented to me: the major part of it consisted of marigolds—apparently a favourite flower with the ladies, for the garden was nearly full of them.

The eunuch now conducted us back to our donkeys, where the husband of my companion awaited her, and we all rode back together to the hotel. Infinite surprise was manifested when I proceeded with my veiled companion into the *table d'hôte*-room, where all our fellow-passengers were assembled; they thought, I believe, that I had brought one of the ladies out of the hharee'm, and they all gathered round us with eager curiosity. But the real state of the case was soon explained; my young friend withdrew her boor'cka (face veil), and made amends for their disappointment by the sight of a very pretty face. Sherbet was handed round, and, after she and her

husband had chatted with us for some time, they took their leave.

G. had the satisfaction of assisting her to mount her donkey, in the singular fashion of the East. The method is by putting first one foot in the stirrup, and then standing upright on the saddle, from whence they lower themselves gradually, without exposing either the legs or feet.

July 4th.—I was too ill to rise. G. and a fellow-passenger amused themselves by sketching the horses, that stand night and day in the court-yard of the hotel, into which all our windows look. They form part of the establishment kept by Messrs. Hill and Co., for the transit across the desert. The average price given for them is from four to eight pounds. They are, in general, strong, able-bodied animals. Each is tethered by one of the hind legs, while the head is secured to a standing manger running across the centre of the yard, a horse being placed alternately on either side.

It appears to be the usual custom in Cairo to stable horses in the open air, and

often in the very streets. One day G. passed six or eight fine horses fastened up against a wall, and, on asking who they belonged to, he was told one of the principal Beys in the Pasha's service.

G. went in the afternoon to the menagerie, situated in the street leading to the citadel. The first thing he saw on entering was a large donkey, then a few jackals. These, together with a lion and two or three camelopards, made up the whole collection. It is certain every thing must have a beginning, and it is to be supposed that the Pasha's menagerie, which he keeps carefully guarded by a couple of sentries at the entrance-gate, is in its extreme infancy; but to the eyes of strangers the streets of his capital is the most amusing menagerie he will be probably ever able to exhibit.

July 5th. — All our fellow-passengers started to-day for Alexandria; some in Messrs. Hill and Co.'s steamer, and the rest in the Lotus, a new one belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Naviga-

tion Company, which is making its first voyage down the Nile. We were left alone at the hotel, as I was very ill and confined to my bed.

My husband, when he came into my room this afternoon, brought me a likeness he had just been taking of an Arab chief, who had come to the house upon some business, with pistols stuck in his girdle and sword in hand. His dress was composed of a species of coarse red cashmere, with a blue mantle thrown over it. His countenance was very fierce, and he squinted terribly. G. also sketched his camel, which was waiting with its syce in the yard; it was very high bred, and one of the desert tribe, differing essentially from those that are used about the streets of Cairo for domestic purposes. When G. began drawing the animal was lying down, and he was accordingly taking it in that position; but no sooner did the syce observe what he was about, than he made it rise in great haste, and led it up and down, looking very uneasy. G. asked one of Hill's people what

this was done for, and they told him it was because the man feared he might throw the *Evil Eye* upon it. Seeing that G. still persisted in his sketch, the man's fright redoubled, and, after hurrying about from place to place, he eventually took it out of the yard. It was a beautifully formed camel, and of the most esteemed colour. The head was particularly handsome, and was decorated with a single ostrich feather, the token of victory.

This reminds me of an anecdote which was related to us of Mohammed Ali, who, while at Suez, during the war with the Wahabees, having heard of a sudden insurrection at Cairo, privately ordered his favourite syce to be ready with his dromedary at a certain hour in the night, and having, according to his usual custom, smoked his last pipe in bed, while in converse with his chief secretary, and made arrangements as if to receive the functionaries of Suez the next day, as a blind to his real intentions, retired to rest. As soon as he supposed all his court were asleep, he secretly mounted his dromedary,

and, with no other attendant but the syce, quitted the town and crossed the desert, a distance of eighty-two miles, in the astonishingly short space of time of seven hours. Day-break found him at Cairo, where, proceeding to the citadel, he ordered a guard to one of the doors of the council-chamber, while he himself appeared at the other, thus discovering the conspirators in the very act of framing their revolt. They all prostrated themselves, and confessed their crimes; but it is supposed their submission was made too late, as none of them have been seen or heard of since.

The syce, who, although on foot, had kept up with the Pasha the whole way, was immediately made a bey, as a reward for his extraordinary exertions, and received the rank of colonel in the army; the dromedary was turned out in a place expressly appropriated to it, and is to be exempted from labour for the remainder of its life.

From July 6th to the 13th I was so ill as to be totally unfit to see or do any thing, and kept "no note of time." Dr. Abott

attended me, and proved himself very clever. When I got a little better, and was able to leave my bed, I used to sit in an arm-chair at the window, looking at the horses feeding in the court. The casements opposite belonged to the house of the Greek consul, and a lovely girl (I know not whether his wife or daughter) was constantly to be seen sitting at one of them, occupied by her embroidery. Her raven hair, plaited across her high white forehead, hung in luxuriant tresses over her shoulders, while a small cap of silver lace was fitted to the crown of her head. She wore a tight bodice, highly ornamented with spangles, displaying to advantage the perfect symmetry of her figure. An older woman, dressed equally richly, was almost always with her, and appeared very jealous of any one looking that way. Once, as she was sitting alone upon the divan, with her back turned towards the window, a young man entered at the opposite door; he was equally handsome, with eyes that almost matched her own. He walked up, kissed her hand, seated

himself by her side, and I soon heard them in earnest conversation. Presently I saw the elder woman appear, and immediately the young girl rose from her seat, bowed to her guest, and quitted the room. I saw several of these little pantomimes, which interested me much.

One day, when G. returned from a walk, he told me he had seen, in the unfrequented streets of the town, several weasels, with bells fastened round their throats. This seemed so very singular, that he inquired the reason. He was told that it was the custom here to keep tame weasels, and, after attaching a bell to their necks to let them run about the house, to frighten away the rats.

I never could have believed that certain other tiny animals ever existed any where in such numbers as they do in Egypt. Even in this really clean and comfortable hotel they are perfectly terrific. I was rather fortunate in my room; but one day, when I was carried into a bed in an adjoining apartment for change of air, I was quite horrified by the numbers I saw crawling

from under the pillow, and in all directions. Any thing of wood is sure to be infested with them, consequently the bedsteads are of iron and the floors stone; but then they take refuge in the chairs and tables.

As the time drew near for us to proceed to Alexandria, in order to be ready for the English steamer, we began to be uneasy about our means of getting there. We had paid our passage-money at Suez; but as all the other passengers had gone, and we alone were left, they did not think it worth while to send their little steamer down expressly for us, but gave us the choice of either waiting for the Bombay steamer's passengers, or going down the river in one of the Nile-boats. We did not like either of these plans: I was not well enough to undertake the forced journey of the first, and the last would very likely have taken us five days, as the river was extremely low and shallow, and the wind contrary. Besides, had we not paid our money beforehand, we might have hired a boat at half the price.

However, just as we had decided to make

the best of the boat, and G. had gone down to Bulac to see it made as comfortable as possible, the little steamer Jack-o'-Lantern came up, and, having found two other passengers, it was agreed that we should go by her.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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